

THE TIMES Tomorrow

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Gombrich



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John Best on the six
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Robert Nye looks at W.
H. Auden's translations
of Norse poems on the
Books page. Also Michael
Ratcliffe reviews *The
Rise and Fall of the
Political Press in Britain*,
by Stephen Koss

Tories rebel again on rates

The Government suffered another revolt when its rate-capping Bill returned to the floor of the Commons for the report stage. Eight Conservative MPs, including Mr Geoffrey Rippon, the former Cabinet minister, voted for an Opposition clause designed to limit the number of government controls over local authority budgets. Rate-limits 'will fail', page 2; Parliament, page 4

Visit soured

President Chaim Herzog of Israel arrived in London on a five-day visit to find his embassy scolding over reports of a £90m British arms sale to Jordan. Page 8

£50m order

The US shipping line Lykes Brothers has signed a letter of intent with Harland and Wolff of Belfast for two container ships worth £50m, with an option for four more. Page 23



Car of future

Ford's car of the future which Mrs Thatcher said should be redesigned was put on public display in London. Page 3

Soviet guest

Mr Georgy Kornienko, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, arrived in Britain last night, the highest-ranking Russian to pay a visit on official business for eight years. Page 6

Difficult task

Zola Budd, the young South African athlete who wants to compete for Britain in the Olympic Games, has her work cut out to qualify against the vastly-improved British women. Page 29

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NUM moderates vote to force national meeting

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The biggest breakthrough in the five-month-old coal miners' dispute came yesterday when union moderates voted in secret to force a meeting of the National Union of Mineworkers' executive that could call a strike ballot.

After a week of indecision among the once dominant right-wing contingent on the union's nine area leaders met privately at a public house in Leicestershire to draw up a timetable to halt the growing strike in the industry.

Last night, they demanded immediate recall of the executive so that a national ballot could be held on pay and pit closures, and in the interim urged that coalfields where 60,000 men have voted to work normally should be freed from "flying pickets" and resume output.

A top-level row is certain to follow in the miners' union, whose national officials were in London yesterday defending a High Court action brought by the coal board.

They were caught on the hop by the moderates' gathering at the Brant Inn, Groby, which could force Mr Arthur Scargill, left-wing president of the union, and Mr Peter Heathfield, its general secretary, to call the executive into emergency session.

Hitherto, the two national officials have declined to set in motion the machinery for a pithead ballot on the ground that the areas were divided about what step to take. But Mr Jack Jones, secretary of the Leicestershire miners, said: "There is now a clear

mandate for a national ballot. We are in a majority and the national executive should reconvene and call for a ballot."

Although only nine members of the executive attended yesterday's meeting, others sent their apologies and the moderates believe that they can muster a 14-10 majority to take the strike issue to a vote of the men.

The coal board welcomed the development, saying that a pithead ballot was the only way to end the present bitterness between the union areas and the conflict between groups of union members.

The board has not sought to bring to the attention of the High Court flagrant breaches of

Motorway blockade, page 36

its injunction against unlawful secondary picketing. A spokesman said last night: "We shall go back to the court if we judge that it is necessary. We are holding off to allow the union's democratic process to work and at the moment they seem to be working."

The board's optimism was not supported by comments from Mr Heathfield. He said: "I am astonished that the Right have had a caucus meeting in the delicate situation we are facing. I am concerned about developing unity within our ranks and not exploiting differences." He added: "I would not like to speculate on what would be done by a full national executive."

The moderates are now clearly determined to force the

drawn-out dispute to an issue. If they do compel a strike ballot, it will almost certainly be on a double question about whether the miners should accept a 5.2 per cent "final" pay offer and whether they want to strike against coal board plans to shut 20 pits and shed 20,000 jobs.

The vote is unlikely to take place for at least a week, and in the meantime there will be strong pressures within the traditionally moderate coalfields that have balloted against striking to resume normal working. About 20,000 men in the Midlands and Lancashire now subject to local strike instructions despite having voted against industrial action, would be free to defy pickets from Yorkshire and South Wales.

They are being told "we leave it to your conscience to return to work as soon as possible" pending the national pithead ballot in which a 55 per cent majority is required under union rules before an all-out strike may be mounted.

The coal board does not expect the poll to be a "walkover" against striking, despite the votes for normal working in moderate areas. However, informed union sources last suggested that the overall result would fall short of the required majority.

Areas accounting for about half the country's 183,000 miners were represented at yesterday's meeting. They came from Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Cumbria, North Wales, Lancashire, South Derbyshire, the Midlands and its associated craftsman.

Share offer to Telecom subscribers

By Bill Johnstone and Jonathan Davis

The Government yesterday confirmed its commitment to offer shares to telephone subscribers when British Telecom is privatized this autumn.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, made the announcement at the Finance Houses Association in London. He said: "Real public ownership is when people regard owning shares in their telephone company as as natural event as paying their salesmen bills - and a great deal less painful."

Mr Tebbit's department has long favoured a share issue to the 20 million subscribers as a way of diversifying ownership and making it difficult for any future government to renationalize the telephones.

Moreover, Whitehall financial advisers, conscious that the sale of 51 per cent of Telecom is the Government's biggest privatization yet, think the City of London alone might not produce the necessary £4bn.

Mentally ill Ripper sent to Broadmoor

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, was moved yesterday to Broadmoor Hospital from Parkhurst prison suffering from what Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, described as grave mental illness.

Sutcliffe, sentenced to life imprisonment in May 1981 on 13 counts of murder and seven of attempted murder, could now be a serious danger to prison staff and others, and required treatment that could be given only in hospital, Mr Brittan told MPs in a parliamentary written reply.

He ordered the transfer under the Mental Health Act, after fresh reports from Dr John Hamilton, Broadmoor's medical director, and Dr Brian Cooper, principal medical adviser at Parkhurst, which concluded that Sutcliffe was a paranoid schizophrenic.

Mr Brittan said he was satisfied Sutcliffe's mental condition had deteriorated seriously. It was said last night that the medical reports showed that Sutcliffe believed he was hearing voices. He had no understanding of his condition and would not accept medical treatment which prisoners could not be compelled to undergo.

As his trial, Sutcliffe said he had heard God's voice telling him to kill prostitutes.

He denied murder but admitted manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility. In convicting him of the murders the jury rejected his plea that paranoid schizophrenia drove him to commit the offences.

Since the trial Sutcliffe has been kept in a single cell in the Parkhurst hospital wing. Last year he suffered face and neck injuries requiring 30 stitches after being attacked by another prisoner. His attacker was given an extra five years.

Mr Brittan said he was satisfied that stringent security precautions would be taken at Broadmoor. He added that if Sutcliffe's mental health improved he might be returned to prison.

Sutcliffe's wife, Sonia, said: "I feel justified. This has confirmed what I have known all the time - that Peter is a sick person. They should have found this out before now."

Sutcliffe's elder sister, Maureen, said: "The whole family is delighted at the news. I do not know what his condition is, but he has not been able to see him since his conviction, and it is impossible to tell from his letters."

Thatcher defends secrecy

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Prime Minister, commenting for the first time on the case of Miss Sarah Tisdall, who leaked arrival dates of cruise missiles, said in the Commons yesterday that no government could carry on its business unless it could trust civil servants to keep classified documents to themselves.

To show her consistency, Mrs Thatcher recalled that in June 1976 she had spoken in the Opposition when Mr James Callaghan, who was then Prime Minister, announced an inquiry into a Cabinet leak.

Mr Callaghan told the

Commons then that "there must be absolute confidence that papers and discussions that take place are kept within the circle to whom they are given".

Supporting him, Mrs Thatcher said the Conservatives fully shared his view of the gravity of the matter. It was essential that confidentiality of discussions and documents should be assured.

The 1976 incident concerned the publication in the magazine *New Society* of an article describing arguments in Cabinet about the child benefit scheme, about which there were

strong differences among Labour ministers.

Mr Callaghan said it was clear that the author had access to Cabinet minutes which were accurately quoted.

Yesterday, Mrs Thatcher said Mr Callaghan was right to order an investigation and she had been right in supporting him.

Journalists at *The Guardian* in London yesterday condemned as harsh and punitive the six-month jail sentence on Miss Tisdall and said they would take up a collection of £2,000 to assist her.

Letters, page 15

MP's challenge over Oman contract

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Monday, the select committee rejected the MP's complaints and refused to publish his five-page memorandum. Select committee publication would have given the MP's allegations the legal protection of parliamentary privilege.

But after Mr Sedgmore had distributed copies to journalists at the Commons, he protested to the Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, that non-publication had rendered the report "incomprehensible and meaningless."

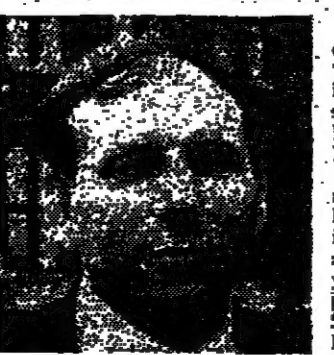
He told the House that if a select committee showed a party political bias, protecting a colleague by failing to print evidence, then "the odour of political corruption would hang heavy in the air."

In a report released on

Mr Sedgmore's statement contains 15 "facts", three "inescapable and irresistible inferences", and a list of suggested witnesses, including Mrs Thatcher and her son, Mark.

The Conservative backbench motion supporting the Prime Minister's pursuit of Britain's interest had been signed by another eight MPs according to yesterday's parliamentary papers. They were: Sir Dudley Smith, Mr Tom Normanston, Mr Antony Marlow, Sir Humphrey Atkins, Mr Cecil Parkinson, Mr George Walden, Mr Piers Merchant, and Mrs Sally Oppenheim.

It was mistakenly reported yesterday that Mr Nicholas Winterbottom, MP for Macclesfield had not signed. He signed on March 15.



Mr Sedgmore: "Nothing to sue me over"

Conservative MP for Hampstead and Highgate, intervened to defend the select committee for refusing "to publish rubbish from the gutter".



Departing moment: Police officers leading a picket away from the skirmishes outside the National Coal Board's area headquarters in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, yesterday.

Cool Queen lifts British prestige in Jordan

From Christopher Walker, Amman

Unruffled by blanket security of an intensity rare even by Middle Eastern standards, the Queen coolly fulfilled a punishing programme of official engagements yesterday in a tour which diplomats hope may give Britain greater prominence in efforts to secure a regional peace.

Although prevented by threat of attack from Syrian-backed Palestinian extremists from all but the barest minimum of spontaneous contact with local Arabs - many of whom are of Palestinian origin - the dignified conduct of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh has strengthened Britain's diplomatic profile at a time when Jordan - US relations are at a low ebb.

While the royal party were fulfilling their timetable in fast-moving motorcades with no unscheduled stops, Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office was meeting Jordan's foreign minister, Mr Taher Al-Masri.

Photograph, page 8

his promotion in the new Cabinet appointed by King Hussein last January. British officials hope that their close connections with him will help the Government in its bid to secure the £90m missile contract recently scrapped by President Reagan.

The possibilities for Britain's new role were emphasized by the King in an interview with a team from TV-am. He called on the Thatcher Government to work in co-ordination with the EEC to reach a comprehensive settlement, adding that Britain could play "an effective role" in the Middle East peace efforts because of its familiarity with the problem.

The warmth with which the royal party has been welcomed by the Israeli government as one of the main obstacles to Middle East peace may cause new problems during the five-day visit to Britain which Israel's president, Mr Chaim Herzog, began yesterday.

The attitude of the Jordanian Government towards Britain's sympathetic stance on the Palestinian issue - featured in a speech by the Queen which referred to their plight as "a

Continued on back page, col 7

Trade surplus leaps to £819m as exports set record

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Britain turned in its best trade performance for more than a year last month, as exports soared to record levels. The surplus on trade in goods of £569m, after a deficit of £339m in January, far surpassed City expectations, lifting the pound on foreign exchange markets.

After adding in an estimated £30m surplus on trade in invisibles - services such as banking, insurance and shipping - Britain recorded a balance of payments current account surplus of £819m, the highest since the end of 1982, and an improvement of more than £900m from the £89m deficit in January.

The February figures were helped by higher oil exports and a big jump in exports of so-called erratic items, including ships, aircraft, precious stones and bullion. The two together accounted for more than half the 15 per cent surge in total exports to a new peak of £6.03 billion.

The monthly trade figures have soared unpredictably in recent months. But the underlying trend suggests that the deterioration in Britain's trade account evident since 1981 may have come to a halt.

The surplus on trade in goods in the three months to February

was £600m, compared with a deficit of £300m in the previous three months. The bulk of the improvement was due to oil, but the deficit on trade in non-oil goods also shrank by £200m to £1.9 billion.

The volume of exports was 7.5 per cent up in the latest three months from three months earlier and 9.5 per cent higher than at the same time last year.

The trade and industry department said yesterday that exports were up across the board and the underlying level of non-oil exports had risen sharply since the middle of last year.

The Government expects exports of goods and services to increase by 5 per cent this year after a meagre 0.5 per cent in 1983, as world economic recovery gathers steam. The Treasury is predicting a £2 billion current account surplus in 1984, the same as last year.

Imports, however, are also expected to grow rapidly, by 7 per cent this year compared with 5 per cent last. In the latest three months imports overall were only a little higher than in the previous three months but imports of manufactures were up 5.5 per cent and there was an 11 per cent jump in imports of consumer goods other than cars.

Shutdown for buses and Tubes

By Tony Samstag

Almost all of London's bus and Tube services are expected to shut down today in a protest against Government proposals to abolish the Greater London Council and metropolitan county councils next, to implement "rate-capping" and to take over the running of London Transport.

The protest is being held 24 hours before a national "day of action" so that participants will be able to reach London rallying points for the main event taking place tomorrow.

British Rail is expected to run normally, except where staff are unable to get to work because of the London Transport shutdown, or where passenger overcrowding causes delays. Green Line coaches will also run normally, although some buses may terminate at the GLC boundary.

London Transport said yesterday that the safest assumption was that none of its services would run.

Scotland Yard said normal parking restrictions would apply.

The British Airports Authority was planning to run a special coach service from 6 am until 10 pm. Twelve coaches will travel between Heathrow Airport and Paddington and Victoria coach stations at roughly half-hourly intervals.

The Automobile Association urged motorists to stagger their journeys to and from work to avoid the extended rush-hours expected.

There were no insurance problems with car-sharing, so long as the driver did not charge passengers more than a "reasonable share" of the costs, the AA spokesman said.

The Public Carriage Office expected a near-normal number of taxis in the streets.

Ministers fail again in Brussels

From Ian Murray, Brussels

There was total and angry failure in Brussels yesterday when EEC foreign ministers tried to salvage something from the wreck of last week's summit.

National positions, which once seemed so close, have become more entrenched than ever, with each delegation announcing that it had withdrawn all concessions. The Commission has been asked to try to draft fresh proposals for the next meeting in Luxembourg on April 9. Britain is still being held to blame. "The British have not withdrawn their concessions", a French spokesman said "because they never made any".

The failure of the meeting meant that the question of freeing Britain's promised £457m rebate from the Community was not even raised. But Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said afterwards that there were no plans to make an issue of it.

The meeting collapsed because it proved impossible to bridge the gap between the £800m rebate offered by the nine other countries and the £780m Britain insists is its minimum requirement with a new system. Thus, although everyone round the table did accept that a new system was needed for calculating national contributions, it proved impossible to agree to starting point.

Sir Geoffrey said the remaining gap was one of 25 per cent - and that was "substantial". He said Britain had already made "formidable and numerous" concessions and it would be difficult to defend or explain to the British people why they should be expected to pay any more to the Community budget when so many other member states were much wealthier.

The mood of the meeting was soured from the start by the matching failure of agriculture ministers, meeting in an adjacent room, to make any progress towards resolving the Irish milk problem. Another Farm Council is to be held on Friday to try once again to break this deadlock, but the omens are not good.

Despite it all, the British delegation remained optimistically optimistic. "In the end, they are condemned to succeed", one official said. The British feel their best hope is to sit back and wait for the Community to run out of money. Once that happens, as an official put it, "the others will come to us. We are all together in one room and the only way out is through a door to which we have the key."

But some dangerously harsh words were being spoken as the meeting ended. Sir Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, was reported as having told the Council: "We have reached the

Continued on back page, col 8

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Minister tries to avert revolt by Tories over political levy

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, was trying last night to avert a Conservative backbench revolt over union members' contributions to political funds.

More than eighty Conservatives have signed a new clause to the Trade Union Bill proposing a statutory right for union members to refuse political levy payments unless they had given written notice that they wished to contribute.

But Mr King, in line with the Conservative manifesto commitment, has reached an agreement with the TUC that the unions should attempt a voluntary scheme "to ensure that individual members are free and effectively able to decide for themselves whether or not to pay the political levy."

The manifesto also said: "In the event that the trade unions are not willing to take such steps, the Government will be prepared to introduce measures to guarantee the free and effective right of choice."

Mr King was meeting small groups of rebels last night in an attempt to persuade them to back down.

But Mr John Townend, MP for Bridlington, and Mr Vivian Bendall, MP for Ilford, North, said later that they intended to press the issue to a Commons vote on Monday.

Mr Townend said: "This is a matter of principle. Nobody should be forced to contribute unless they want to. I shall certainly be pushing it to a vote."

Government's embarrassment would be compounded by the fact that statutory enforcement of contracting in is supported by the Liberal-Social Democratic Alliance, while Labour would be expected to join forces with ministers to defeat the new clause.

Mr Townend said that Mr King had been arguing that he had acted in line with the manifesto, and he had given a warning the statutory contracting in could lead to state funding for political parties.

The MP said that the voluntary agreement which Mr King had made with the unions did not "hold water". He said that there was no power to enforce it and he recalled that although rebels have failed to win a Commons vote on secret ballots in the last Parliament, Mr King was now bringing in secret ballots with his new Bill.

Mr Bendall said: "It just happens that we are a few years ahead of the front bench on these matters." He said that the new clause had escalated since the weekend and they hoped to have a hundred signatures by the end of the week.

Tax cut of 9p would restore 1979 level

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

A tax cut equivalent to 9p off the basic rate would be needed to restore the tax burden for a couple on average earnings to its 1978-79 level, before the present Government came to office, the Treasury revealed in a parliamentary answer yesterday. The figures take into account the substantial increase in the income tax threshold announced in the Budget.

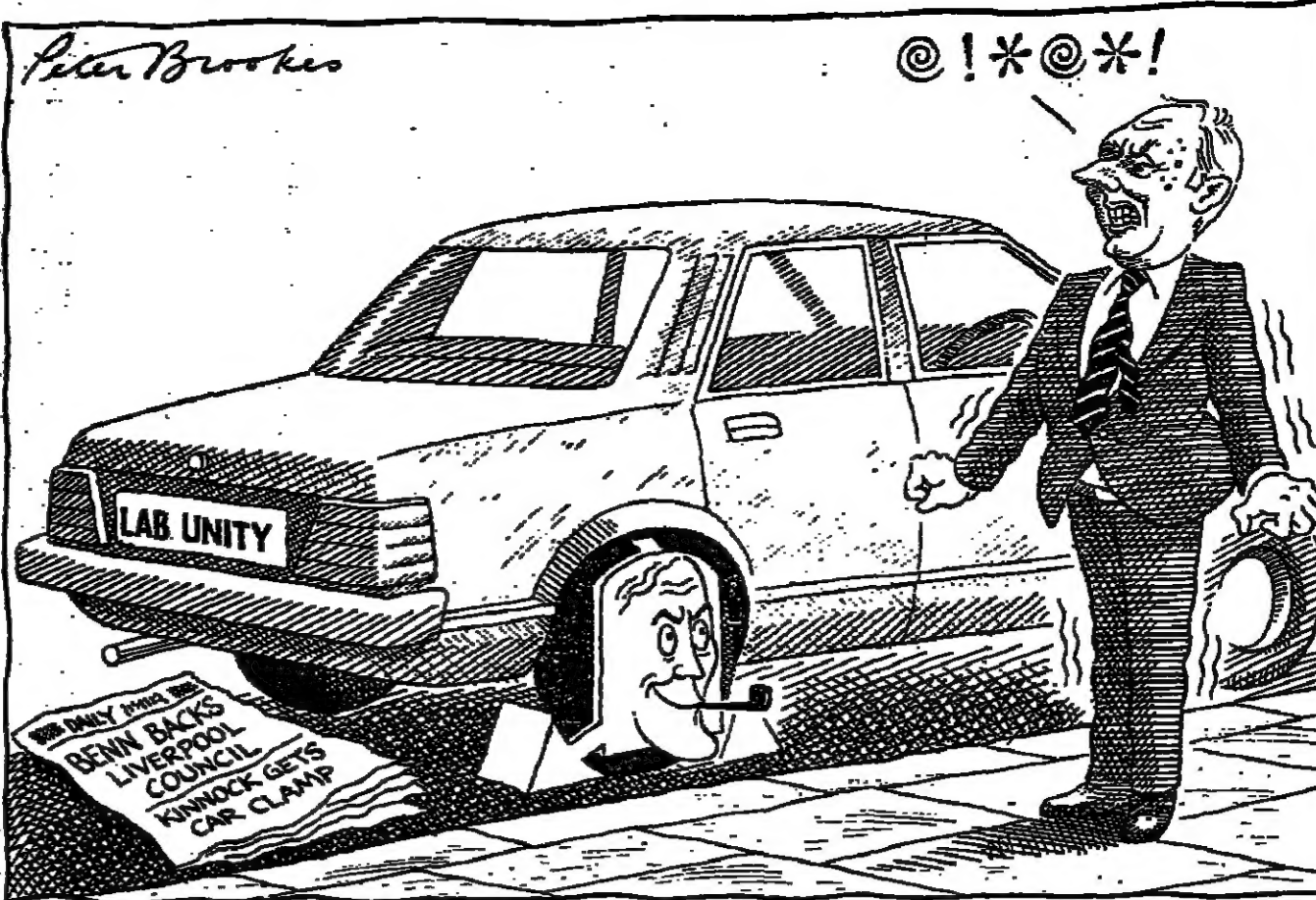
For poor households, the tax reduction would need to be bigger. To reduce payments in real terms to 1978-79 levels, after adjusting for price rises, a couple on three-quarters average earnings would need an 11.5p cut in income tax, and a couple on one-and-a-half times average earnings a cut of 7.6p.

Smaller reductions would be needed to restore payments to 1978-79 levels as a proportion of earnings: nearly 4p on average earnings, but almost 6p for half the average wage and only 3p for one-and-a-half times the average.

INCOME TAX CUT NEEDED TO RESTORE PAYMENTS TO 1978-79 LEVELS

Earnings	Single	Married	Married + 2 children
75% average	10.8	11.5	8.7
100% average	8.0	8.0	6.8
150% average	7.6	7.6	5.1
as proportion of earnings			
75% average	6.1	5.7	4.4
100% average	4.3	3.7	2.9
150% average	3.1	2.9	1.3

Source: Treasury



Union faces rebuff over polygraph

By Peter Hennessy

The introduction of the polygraph, or lie detector, at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) next Monday will be raised this afternoon at the first meeting for five years of the Civil Service National Whitley Council.

Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary of the Cabinet, who will chair the meeting, may rule it out as a topic for discussion on the ground that the Civil Service unions lost their representative rights at the signals and electronic intelligence centre on March 1.

If he does, the Council of Civil Service Unions team, led by Mr William McCall, of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, will say that about 180 employees at GCHQ have declined to relinquish their union membership despite the Government's ban.

Union leaders estimate that 50 of them could be liable for a lie detector test in the next 12 months. All staff at GCHQ are vetted and the process is renewed every five years.

From April 1, the polygraph will be used on those staff at Cheltenham undergoing the quinquennial review of their security clearance. It is part of a pilot project designed to stiffen Whitehall's defences against the KGB.

The expectation in Whitehall is that security authorities at Cheltenham will carefully avoid using the polygraph on any of the 160 recruits, at least in the near future. Conciliation is one of the priorities of Mr Peter Marychurch, director of GCHQ.

Of the 160 union members remaining at GCHQ, about 110 are based at Cheltenham and about 50 in its outstations. The union breakdown is: Society of Civil and Public Servants 80; Institution of Professional Civil Servants 30; Association of Government Supervisors and Radio Officers 30; Civil and Public Services Association 7; and First Division Association 2.

Government may order audit of Liverpool council's books

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

The Government is considering its first direct involvement in Liverpool's financial crisis by ordering a "special audit" of the council's books.

A team of accountants from the Audit Commission for Local Authorities, the quango which oversees councils' accounting practices and efficiency, would systematically work through town hall departments to provide a reliable picture of finances.

It is understood that ministers would prefer such relatively uncontroversial action; official advice has consistently been against dispatching the Civil Service commissioners that are provided for under emergency legislation which has been prepared for several years.

But no move will be made until after the likely budget stalemate at tomorrow's council meeting. It is likely, too, that the Government will wait to see what action is proposed by Mr Les Stanford, the Chester-based official auditor from Liverpool, who is employed by the audit commission.

Mr Stanford has given a warning to the Labour majority that the proposed budget plan would result in his applying to a court for an order surcharging and disqualifying councillors. But if no budget is agreed on Thursday, he will face a difficult task in identifying those responsible for the city's financial chaos.

Experts say that if no rate is

agreed this week, Mr Michael Reddington, the city treasurer, has enough income from various sources (for example late repayments from 1983-84 and repayment of debts) to keep going for some time. But he might need to borrow money and it is thought that payments of interest on such borrowings would be illegal.

Mr Stanford might then use them as the basis for a court action requiring the council to set a rate.

In Liverpool yesterday, 2,000 dockers agreed at a meeting to join the demonstrations planned to put pressure on wavering Labour councillors. Six have said publicly that they will not vote for their party's budget.

Champagne and caviar as Concorde heads for Miami

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

British Airways' Concorde opened a new chapter yesterday with a 4,900-mile flight to Miami that began as Londoners sat down to lunch and ended as Floridians were finishing theirs.

The twice-weekly service will provide a further boost to Concorde's already flourishing fortunes by tapping the rich business and leisure market of America's sunshine state whose slogan - "The Future is Now" - is peculiarly appropriate to the occasion.

Nearly a hundred passengers flew to Washington, then superpersonally down to Florida, in Concorde's usual Lucullan style: champagne and canapés of caviar and pâté de foie gras; fresh salmon mayonnaise; and English lamb with Chateau Grand Laroche '76 or turbot with a 1980 Marseillat.

Among them were Lord Bessborough, aerospace minister in the 1970s when Concorde was getting off the ground; Britain's Ambassador in Washington, Sir Oliver Wright; and the Lieutenant-Governor of Florida, Mr Wayne Mixson. "We are really excited about it," Mr Mixson said. "We are a

Sale room Smart miniatures reach giddy new heights

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

John Smart is one of the most popular eighteenth century portrait miniature painters but never has his work been bid to such giddy heights as at Christie's yesterday. A pair of miniatures of Sir Charles and Lady Helena Oakeley, 2½ in. ovals framed in rose diamonds, sold for £49,680 (estimate £15,000 to £20,000).

Sir Charles was governor of Madras from 1773-94 and married his flighty young bride in India in 1777. The miniatures were painted in 1786 and are delightful, with subtle colouring and fine condition.

They were bought by a private collector from Switzerland, with Leggett, the London dealer, as the underbidder. The auction had attracted all the keenest miniature buyers and the trend in prices was buoyant. Although the serious competition was reserved for the best pieces, a superb John Hoskins miniature of a gentleman, dated 1654 was bid to £17,280 (estimate £6,000 to £8,000).

Proceeds from the sale of historic music manuscripts and documents, which are being offered at Christie's today by Mr O'Neill McGintock, Mr Johnson of the second Lord O'Neill are to be put into a special bank account, pending a High Court decision over ownership (the Press Association reports).

Mr McGintock's sister, Mrs Annette Rose Firth, of Cecil Hill, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, claims a half share of the proceeds. She contends that the documents, found by her brother last December at the family home, Redhill, Ballycarr, Co. Kerry, in Northern Ireland, were part of their late mother's estate.

Mr McGintock denies the allegation and also contests that his sister has an interest in the documents, which include an unpublished Haydn Mass, autographed manuscripts by Beethoven and Mendelssohn, and letters from Schumann and Rossini.

When the boss is another union

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

When the bosses are trade union leaders and union employees who are on strike, life can become tense for those who have to negotiate between the brothers at war.

Such a man is Maurice Tunner, official of the white-collar union Apex, which organizes about 4,000 full-time staff employed by trade unions. He is trying to unravel the four-week strike by banking union employees in a redundancy dispute.

Mr Tunner gets involved in many such disputes, as he is ultimately responsible for the terms and conditions of Apex members at about 70 unions. Not all reach the stage of a strike, as has happened at the Bankers Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu), but he says there have been "many close calls".

Negotiating on behalf of his members with a trade union leader can sometimes lead to strains in the unity of purpose encouraged by the movement.

"Occasionally we find that general secretaries can be a little too authoritarian in their approach. We have come to expect that from other employers but we do not expect it from trade union general secretaries," Mr Tunner says.

He refuses to name those unions regarded as poor employers, but he is more forthcoming on good employers, which include the Union of Communications Workers and Nalco, the union for town hall white-collar staff. Negotiations became Byzantine when he argues for pay increases on behalf of Apex members working for Apex.

One union staff dispute that achieved notoriety in the labour movement in the 1970s involved staff at the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' headquarters at Peckham in London. Picketing was so successful that Mr

Hugh Scanlon, who was then the president, had to climb into the office through a window.

No less embarrassing was the strike 15 months ago by staff at the miners' headquarters, at that time in London, soon after Mr Arthur Scargill became president.

There have been several disputes involving the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS), the union headed by Mr Clive Jenkins. The last official Apex strike before the present Bifu dispute was at the ASTMS offices in north London.

"Negotiations with unions can be difficult, but because we understand each other's problems there are some advantages," Mr Tunner says. "For instance, when a union says it has no money to make a pay offer, I can understand their problems of falling membership and income."

Threat to dismiss BBC strikers

The BBC will dismiss 700 striking scenery workers today unless they give an undertaking to return to work, talks between the corporation's management and the Entertainment Trades Alliance, which represents the strikers, continued at the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) yesterday (Our Arts Correspondent writes).

BBC officials were hopeful

that there might be a breakthrough in the six-week dispute but insisted that the deadline for a return to work, imposed last week, must stay.

The strike began when the BBC introduced new working schedules for its London scenery making and shifting departments. It has postponed around 40 light entertainment and drama productions.

The BBC said that the

proposed changes were designed to make the scenery department more efficient.

But the union has opposed the BBC's attempt to go to arbitration without agreement to restore working practices to their previous formula.

With overtime, the annual wages of those on strike vary from £9,400 for cleaners working nights, to £14,000 for scenery painters.

Defence team chosen

The new Labour committee which will be responsible for revising and amending the party's defence policy before the next general election is expected to include several multi-lateralists.

The membership of the party's 12 new joint policy committees, each taking members from both the parliamentary party and the national

executive committee, are expected to be finalized today at meetings of the NEC at party headquarters and later on the Shadow Cabinet.

The committees are part of the new streamlined approach to policy making agreed since the election, with a new emphasis on the NEC and the Shadow Cabinet working closer together to avoid the conflicts

Soldier killed by IRA bomb

A soldier was killed yesterday when the minibus he was driving was ripped apart by a 200lb bomb detonated by Provisional IRA terrorists hiding in fields (Richard Ford writes from Belfast).

Sergeant David Ross, aged 31, was killed instantly in the explosion.

Rate cap Bill 'will fall short'

The rate capping planned by ministers next year will not be severe enough to produce the required savings, Dr John Cunningham the shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday (Our Local Government Correspondent writes).

He believed that ministers would have to fix legal ceilings for 90 councils to eliminate supposed over-spending of £1,500m by councils throughout the country.

Ministers have not issued detailed capping plans for next year but they have said they expect to fix rate ceilings for 12 to 20 high-spending authorities. No official list has appeared, but ministers have indicated that the Greater London Council and Basildon District Council are certain to be capped.

The spending plans for the coming year of several London boroughs, the Inner London Education Authority and South Yorkshire County Council mean that they are also probable candidates for capping. All the highest spenders are Labour-controlled.

Dr Cunningham based his calculation on the £1,500m cut in local council spending set out for next year in the White Paper about public spending published last month. Dr Cunningham said the rates of 90 councils would have to be capped.

Dr Cunningham was speaking at a press conference organized at Westminster by the Local Government Campaign Unit, a union-backed group which is organizing this week's demonstrations against the Government plans to abolish the six English metropolitan counties and the Greater London Council.

Restoration jewel set to open

From John Young, Grantham

Belton House, the latest and by far the costliest jewel in the National Trust's collection, opens its doors to the public on Sunday.

Described as the finest Restoration house in Britain, it was acquired last year from Lord Brownlow with the aid of an £8m grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, nearly twice as much as it has given for any other purchase.

Yesterday the handsome grey house was looking in splendid condition, as journalists and photographers milled along its treasures. Under wistful skies, crocuses and snowdrops sprouted from the lawns and avenues of still-lush trees stood sentinel across the parkland, leading the eye to views of distant follies.

Belton, near Grantham, Lincolnshire, was built in 1686 and, although long attributed to Sir Christopher Wren, was in fact the work of William Winde. The trust, not having to spend large sums on repairs, has been able to buy the lion's share of the contents, including two sets of tapestries which formed part of the original furnishings, and all the family portraits.

Among the house's chief delights are the ornate ceilings, characteristic of its period, and the tall canopied beds, one of which was used by Queen Adelaide, the widow of William IV, who lived there for a time.

Among many rooms never seen by the public before is the state dining room, with its three huge canvases by the seventeenth century Dutch painter, Melchior Hondelcoeter.



Guarding the treasures of Belton yesterday (Photograph: Brian Harris).

The trust has also acquired most of the early eighteenth century furniture, a collection of Reynolds portraits and Dutch and Italian oil masters, much Oriental porcelain and eighteenth and nineteenth century silver, and a fine array of leather-bound books in the library.

It is a lovely house, light, warm and welcoming. Mr Brian Lang, secretary of the heritage trust, said yesterday that the opening marked the coming of age of the fund, established four years ago.

The example of Mentmore had shown that, if the saving of great houses were left to governments, they would prob-

ably be lost, he said. He might have added that it was a letter in The Times from Lord Brownlow's cousin, drawing attention to the impending sale of Belton and dispersal of its contents, that first awoke public attention.

The house will be open from 1 pm to 5.30 pm from Wednesdays to Sundays and on Bank holidays until the end of October, apart from a period between April 24 and May 4 when it will be closed to accommodate Christie's sale of the contents not acquired by the trust. Admission costs £2 for adults, children £1.

The trust said yesterday that it hoped for about 70,000 visitors in the first year.

Thatcher hint of curb on prescribing pill

The Prime Minister has dropped another hint that she favours stricter controls over even a prohibition on doctors prescribing contraceptives to girls under 16 without their parents' consent (Nicholas Timmins writes).

After being sent letters from three ethnic minority organizations backing Mrs Victoria Gillick's campaign on the pill, Mrs Margaret Thatcher has said the Government "has every sympathy with the feelings which lie behind the points which have been made".

In a letter to Mr Harry Greenway, Conservative MP for Ealing North, she says the correspondence has been passed to Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, "who will, I am sure, take it account in reconsidering his department's guidelines". Supporters of the existing guidance, which allows doctors in some circumstances to prescribe contraceptives to girls under 16 without their parents' consent, are convinced that Mrs Thatcher will find time for a parliamentary debate.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$28; Belgium 250; Canada \$40; Denmark 250; France 250; Germany 250; Greece 250; Holland 250; Ireland 250; Italy 250; Japan 250; Korea 250; Luxembourg 250; Netherlands 250; New Zealand 250; Norway 250; Portugal 250; Spain 250; Sweden 250; Switzerland 250; Taiwan 250; Thailand 250; USA \$1.75; Yugoslavia 250.

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Announces that the following interest rates will apply from 1 April 1984

	Not	Green equivalent of the basic rate of 9.75%
Share Accounts	6.25%	8.93%
FlexAccounts	6.25%	8.93%
Bonus Accounts (Minimum £500)	7.25%	10.36%
Super Bonus Accounts (Minimum £500)	7.50%	10.71%
Capital Bonds (21st Issue) (Minimum £500)	7.75%	11.07%
Subscription Share Accounts (Regular savings)	7.25%	10.36%
Deposit Accounts	6.00%	8.57%

Mortgage Accounts - New Advances
The mortgage rate on new advances to owner occupiers is now 10.25% for repayment loans and 10.75% for endowment loans.

Mortgage Accounts - Existing Mortgages
The rate of interest charged on all existing mortgages will be decreased by 1% with effect from 1 April 1984.

Head Office: New Oxford House, High Holborn, London WC1V 6PW

Microchip drug infuser helped childless women to have babies

Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Fifty women diagnosed as permanently infertile, some as long ago as 15 years ago, have become pregnant. There have been 19 deliveries of healthy children and one multiple birth. The women have responded to a new treatment for infertility which restores the levels of a hormone called LHRH in the blood. The hormone triggers a train of biochemical events ending in ovulation. It is produced by the hypothalamus gland, which also secretes a large family of other substances associated with the body's sleeping and waking rhythm and other biological cycles. The treatment, carried out by Professor Howard Jacobs at the Middlesex Hospital, London, and a team working with Dr Ian Robinson of the National Institute for Medical Research, is given when the biological

rhythm for LHRH has gone wrong. In those cases infertility was not caused by an absence of the hormone but by an unusual pattern of release of the substance by the gland. Yesterday Dr Robinson explained that recent research had shown that the action of some hormones had been found to be impaired if they were released in an "abnormal" pattern. The key is not the quantity but the intervals between the times at which the agent is generated. LHRH is most effective when secreted into the bloodstream at 90-minute intervals throughout the 24-hour day. In the infertility cases which have responded to treatment, the release was only once or twice a day. Under the new treatment the hormone is fed into the bloodstream by a miniature drug infuser, a device about the

size of the standard music cassette which is strapped to the upper arm for about four or five months. The infuser contains a tiny plastic syringe, replaced at weekly intervals. The syringe holds the LHRH that is infused slowly by a small motor following a programme on a microchip. The infuser was developed originally for introducing insulin into diabetics in preference to intermittent injections. The only difference between the one used of the fertility hormone and the one for insulin lies in the microchip. The electronic controller, smaller than a postage stamp, can be chosen for any pattern corresponding to a natural cycle for hormone therapy. Other substances are being tested. One trial is for the administration of growth hormone to treat children whose growth is retarded.

Solicitor to fight ban on advertising

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

A fighting fund was launched by a solicitor yesterday to challenge a Law Society ban on advertising. Mr Peter Browne, of Avonmouth, Bristol, is contesting in the High Court the Society's refusal to allow him to advertise a self-help legal service, in which clients can be guided in "do-it-yourself" action. He has won leave to bring the High Court challenge and he is now lobbying solicitors and other interested parties in the hope of raising sufficient funds to cover the first stages. Mr Browne ran a "self-help" legal service for nine months before the Law Society said that advertising it amounted to "touting". But he contends that the no-advertising rule is unlawful as an unreasonable restraint of trade. Under his scheme, clients were given guidance in filling in forms and writing letters where the case was not sufficiently large to justify full legal fees. The whole question of advertising by solicitors is under review as part of the Government's proposed reforms on conveyancing. But Mr Browne says that advertising in a broader context should also be examined. Recent steps by the Law Society allow lawyers to place small "gravestone" advertisements in local newspapers, provided that charges are not included.

Snuff sales go up after cigarette tax

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

While sales of other tobacco products have declined, and cigarette manufacturers are cutting back on production capacity, Britain's snuff makers are boosting production. Sales were up nearly 5 per cent last year, according to the latest returns of the Society of Snuff Grinders, Blenders and Purveyors. A big jump in exports more than offset a marginal decline of barely 1 per cent in the British market.

Exports account for nearly half the production of Britain's five snuff manufacturers, two of whose grinding mills are in Sheffield and the other three in Kendal. The biggest of the snuff makers is J. and H. Wilson, a Sheffield subsidiary of the Imperial Group. The other manufacturers, including the other Sheffield-based company Wilson and Co. (Sharrow), are still small independent operations.

With British snuff production at 531,000 lbs last year, British snuff makers sniffed away about 270,000 lbs in about 500 blends. Blends fall into three main categories: plain, the largest sector; mentholated and medicated snuffs; and aromatic snuffs, made with a variety of oils such as the attar of roses, which is proving the big growth area as more smokers turn to what was once the most elegant way to take tobacco.

One advantage of snuff is that, unlike other tobacco products it carries no excise

duty. Health warnings on snuff containers have also been ruled unnecessary.

Snuff costs from about 70p to £1.60 an ounce with prices showing little of the sharp acceleration seen particularly with cigarettes.

There are signs this year of a substantial increase in snuff sales in Britain, particularly since the Budget tax increases earlier this month on tobacco, which pushed up the price of a pack of 20 cigarettes by 10p.

Sales increases of between 8 and 9 per cent are reported by Mr Vivian Rose, a director of G. Smith and Sons, the London-based snuff blenders and retailers.

His company's sales were slightly up last year against the overall trend. He said: "Things like a miners' strike can have a big effect in some areas when workers who take snuff because of job conditions temporarily use less."

"Particularly since the Budget we have seen many people deciding to try snuff taking as an alternative to smoking."

UK snuff sales in lbs including exports	
	lbs
1979	535,000
1980	550,000
1981	545,000
1982	507,000
1983	531,000

Source: Society of Snuff Grinders, Blenders and Purveyors

Boy aged 15 guilty of murder

A boy aged 15 was ordered to be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure after he was convicted at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of the "mindless and motiveless" murder of Aaron Lee, aged 8, of Streatham, south London.

The boy was described by psychiatrists as a loner with problems of reasoning who "fantasized about violence". He spent hours reading stories on witchcraft and watching horror films on television.

The court was told that Aaron Lee was stabbed 20 times with a dagger on waste ground beside the London to Brighton rail line at Streatham last September. Commuters on a passing train saw the incident.

Inquest on gun dealer opens

Mr John Longstaff, the arms dealer, was under investigation by civilian and ministry of defence police when he was found dead with his throat cut on board a British Airways flight from Frankfurt last week. The West London coroner was told yesterday.

Mr Longstaff, aged 36, of Pudsey, West Yorkshire, had arranged to meet investigating officers at Leeds airport. The inquest was adjourned for three weeks.

Boat carpenter wins £900

Mr Peter Divers, a carpenter, was dismissed after failing to fit special supports in two cabin cruisers with the result that the decks moved when the vessels stopped.

Yesterday Mr Divers, aged 36, of Wolverley, Hereford and Worcester, was granted £900 by an industrial tribunal for unfair dismissal by Dawncraft Cruisers, of Stourport-on-Severn. He complained he was not instructed about the supports and was dismissed without warning.

Nest scheme

Artificial bird nests are being built by the Welsh Water Authority as part of a £3m flood defence scheme for Bridgend, South Wales. Nesting pipes are being incorporated into the stone facings.

Increasing doubts over Intoximeter breath test

By Rupert Morris

Doubts increased yesterday about the legal machinery surrounding use of the Intoximeter 3000 breath-test machine as the manufacturers responded to allegations in yesterday's *Daily Express*.

Earlier concern prompted the Home Office to announce on Monday that motorists failing evidential breath tests would be able, for a six-month period from April 16, to insist on blood or urine tests. The Court of Appeal decided on the same day that the *Express* would publish confidential documents about the Intoximeter.

Mr Alan Beaven, a barrister who has specialized in defending motorists accused of drink and drive offences, said "it is outrageous that it should have taken the disclosure of these documents to persuade the Home Office to allow blood tests".

He said the amount of breath required to provide an Intoximeter sample was tested only once before the machine was put into use, and was never subsequently checked.

However, Dr Paul Williams, marketing director of the manufacturers Lion Laboratories, of Barry, South Glamorgan, accused the *Daily Express* of "distortion" in its presentation of the case.

He said the newspaper had used only material that supported its own view, and failed to use any police evidence and had used technical data without any attempt to understand its scientific basis.

The Home Office, which revealed that since the Intoximeter was introduced on May 6, there had been 8,000 to 10,000 evidential breath tests a month in the United Kingdom, said it was satisfied the machines were working satisfactorily.

But the courts may have severe problems over the next few weeks dealing with motorists accused solely on the evidence of the Intoximeter.

Leading article, page 15.



Poles apart: Mr John Howland, of Ospringe Kent, using stilts for hop stringing as he has done for the past 32 years. But it is a dying skill as most hop farms use poles operated from the ground to hang the string. (Photograph John Voos).

Colleges to profit from work under Joseph law

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

A new law to enable polytechnics and local authority colleges to make money from their own inventions and consultancy work was proposed yesterday by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science. There has been considerable discontent because these institutions are not allowed to undertake commercial activities particularly as the Government wishes to see education responding to industry's needs.

Sir Keith told the Commons yesterday that he intended to introduce legislation freeing local authorities further education establishments from this constraint.

A new law would enable polytechnics and colleges to do consultancy work and contracted research, to exploit their inventions, to take part in research with industry, to do routine testing and to set up advisory services. Mr Michael Lewis, secretary of the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics, said the proposed was "very good news". Most polytechnics are not corporate bodies and are subject to the financial regulations of the organizations funding them, the local authorities.

Sir Keith has been accused of being philistine in asking universities to review funding and shift further towards technology, science and engineering courses.

A letter from Aberdeen University says lecturers and others are saddened by the undervaluing of humanities and social sciences shown in his request.

Professor George McNicol, Aberdeen's vice-chancellor, has also told the University Grants Committee: "There could be a swing back towards the arts and social sciences as young people try to understand themselves and look for moral, cultural and religious values in a materially orientated society."

Battle for video rental market

Britain's television rental shops are to be offered a new model video recorder from Philips, based on Japanese technology in preference to the company's own. The new machines, designed on the VHS system developed by the Japan Victor Company,

are an attempt by the European electronics giant to regain some of the video recorder market lost to the Japanese, particularly through the rental market. The rental outlets supply more than 40 per cent of the six million recorders in British homes and have helped the VHS system to

control about 72 per cent of the rental and retail trade.

While Philips's recorders account for 20 per cent of European video sales, in Britain they have only 4 per cent. The Sony Betamax system has the remainder left after the VHS share.

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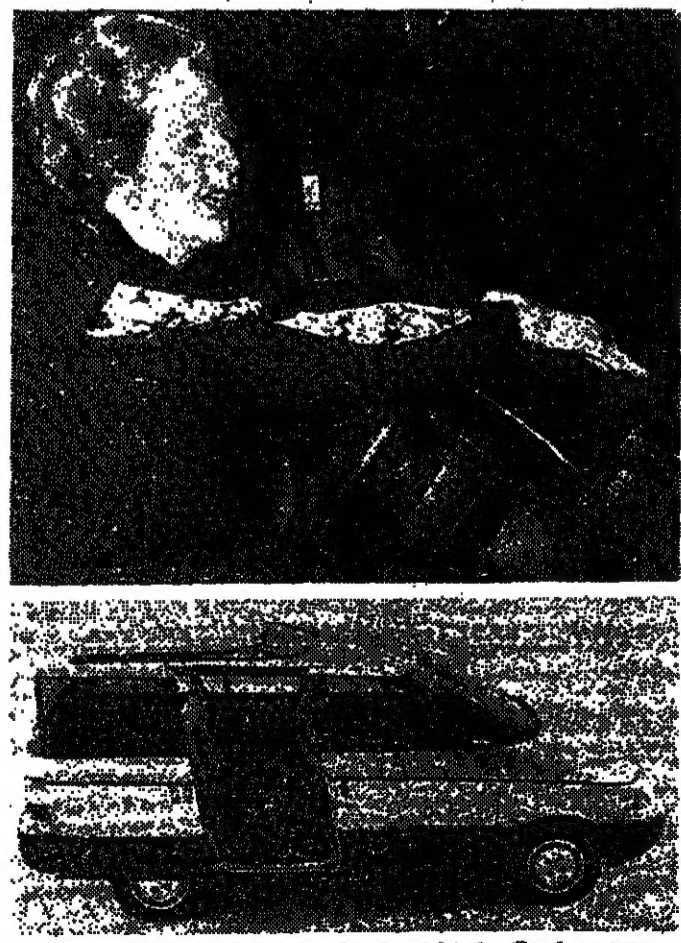
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Mrs Thatcher searching for the front in the Ford prototype and (above) a model of the All-Purpose Vehicle.

Thatcher is troubled by car of the future

By Robin Young

The car of the future, with the front which the Prime Minister complains is invisible, was the centre of attention at the Design Centre in Haymarket, London, yesterday when the Drive Forward exhibition opened to the public.

At a preview on Monday night Mrs Margaret Thatcher told Ford it would have to redesign its Ghia All-Purpose Vehicle (APV) for her. "I do not like it," she said. "I like to see where the front of the car is."

The APV's rounded front end achieves a drag coefficient of only 0.33, but neither that nor a 60" windscreen would reconcile Mrs Thatcher. Mr David Burgess-Wise, of Ford, tried to convince Mrs Thatcher that she could not really see the furthest extremities of her Jaguar either, but he was forced to admit: "You cannot win them all."

Mr Alan Jackson, Ford designer, said part of the design philosophy was that in a collision the impact should be as friendly as possible.

There are few modern cars on which the driver, whatever his or her height, can see the front, if the front is taken to mean the furthest forward projection.

Another trend in the exhibition to which Mrs Thatcher raised objection was the use of greater window areas. Cars would overheat, she said, and become more suitable for growing tomatoes than travelling in.

Miss Frances Mann, the exhibition researcher, said yesterday: "In fact the greenhouse effect will not be as great as the Prime Minister fears. The mouldings are likely to be polycarbonates, not glass, and they could be tinted pink, orange or even blue."

Government has to trust Civil Service

SECRETS ACT

No Government could carry on its business unless it could trust those in the Civil Service who had charge of security documents to keep those documents to themselves. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during question time exchanges in the Commons.

She was responding to one of a number of questions concerning Miss Sarah Tisdall, the Foreign Office Clerk, imprisoned for six months for leaking a Government document on cruise missiles to *The Guardian* newspaper.

Mr Terence Lewis (Worcester, Lab) began the exchanges, by saying: The savage sentence meted out to Miss Tisdall contrasts sharply with the establishment cover-up (Loud Conservative interruption).

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill): He must be aware that this case is a subject.

Mr Lewis: Would the Prime Minister agree the time has arrived when sentencing policy ought to be reviewed in view of cases that affect national security as against those that do not?

Mrs Thatcher: No, I believe sentencing is a matter for the courts.

We are in certain cases, proposing next year to introduce the right of appeal against sentences, but it would not apply to the particular case. It would only be where it was thought that the sentence was unduly low and would be dangerous for the future.

Mr Cranley Owsley (Woking, C): Does Mrs Thatcher think any government of this country could

effectively carry on its business if the Official Secrets Act were so amended as to legislate the wilful betrayal of trust?

Any civil servant of any grade who supposes himself or herself to be the victim of a conflict of loyalties should either ask to be transferred to non-sensitive work or resign from the service. (Conservative cheer)

Mrs Thatcher: I agree with him. I note that when the matter came up during the lifetime of the last government, during June 1976, the then Prime Minister said: "There must be absolute confidence that the support and discussions that take place are kept within the circle to whom they are given."

"The then Leader of the Opposition said: "We fully share his view about the gravity of the matter. It is essential that the confidentiality of documents should be ensured."

He was right and I was right in supporting him. (Conservative cheer)

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab): How can she justify imprisonment under Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act which was designed to protect the present Home Secretary (Mr Leon Brittan) six years ago as indefensible?

Mrs Thatcher: The Franks report on the Official Secrets Act was published in 1972. A Labour Government held office from 1974 to 1979 and did not over five years introduce legislation. They could have done so but they did not.

In 1979 we introduced legislation which did not find favour in the House. We have no intention of introducing further legislation at present.

'Hansard' forced to do things by half

COMMITTEES

An attempt by a person in the Lord Chancellor's office to get a proof copy of a *Hansard* report of a special standing committee taking evidence on a Bill, misfired and led to publication of a full report of the committee's proceedings being delayed.

The matter was raised in the Commons by Mr Merlyn Rees (Leeds, South, Lab), chairman of the committee, and the Speaker said that he had inquired into the matter Mr Rees said that he raised as a point of order a matter of concern to him, as chairman of the special committee set up to take evidence under the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill.

The matter (he said) gives rise to a complaint against someone in the Lord Chancellor's Department, as a result of which, on March 23, *Hansard* printers dealing with the report were stopped from dealing with it by someone in the Lord Chancellor's department.

This was a serious matter. It was relevant that on Thursday, valuable evidence had been given by Lord Scarman to the committee, and by Sir John Arnold, president of the Family Division, both written and oral, and both of which were to be published.

The first I knew of it (he said) was when a letter was given to me this morning, addressed to the clerk, from Mr Kenneth Morgan, Editor of the *Official Report*.

It said: "My attention has been drawn to a half report of the third sitting of your committee on March 23. This half report was made available, I understand, as a result of pressure from the Lord Chancellor's Department late on Thursday and the full version was not available until today."

"As a result of this episode I have directed the printers under no circumstances to repeat this exercise

and to take instructions on the publication of standing committee reports only from my office. To proceed otherwise is a recipe for disaster."

Mr Rees continued: I simply say that it is not easy for a printer, whom I believe is a subcontractor, to get a call from the Lord Chancellor's office. You never know who is talking.

In our sitting, there was a conflict between what the Lord Chancellor said in the House of Lords and what the President of the Family Division said to us on Thursday.

He was concerned that someone from the Lord Chancellor's Office had got on direct to the printer, and not through *Hansard*. This was a new committee which depended on evidence. Government departments had to be told that they did not control *Hansard*. *Hansard* was responsible to the House and to no one else.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, Solicitor General, said that he had made inquiries into what had happened. The committee had been told that there was disparity on a particular issue between what the President of the Family Division had said and a speech by the Lord Chancellor. The president had already undertaken to submit a further written memorandum. So that the matter could be dealt with in that memorandum, he had asked that copy of Thursday's *Hansard* be obtained as soon as possible.

The printers undertook to try to obtain proof copies from the subcontractors.

I am sorry (he said) that this initiative of mine, taken solely in the interest of putting the fullest information before the committee at its final meeting, led to a delay in *Hansard* appearing.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill): The House will accept the explanation. I have looked into the matter to ensure that nothing of the kind happens again.

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Lewis: Savage sentence and cover-up.

Mr Edward Leigh (Gainsborough and Horncastle, C): Is she aware of the internal CND document on cruise which instructs members to render the deployment of cruise missiles militarily useless by informing the world, including our enemies, exactly where they are sited?

This confirms the impression of many Conservative MPs that the CND's dirty work is now being done by the CND's dirty work for them.

Mrs Thatcher: That is correct. They are making a fundamental attack of the defence, security and liberty of our country, including liberties enabling them to have freedom of speech.

Mr Alan Beth (Berwick-upon-Tweed, L): The country would be far better governed if a Freedom of Information Act could protect those areas which ought to be in the public domain and leave the law to protect fewer secrets.

Mrs Thatcher: There are certain matters which it is vital to keep confidential, both for security and commercial reasons.

Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Rates Bill, completion of remaining stages. Lords (2.30): Debate on White Paper on training for jobs.

Lyceum Club sold to Post Office
LIVERPOOL

The Government has sold the Lyceum Club, Liverpool, to the Post Office for £320,000. Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said in a Commons written answer. The contract of sale included, he said, conditions requiring that the principal historic and architectural features of the building should be restored and preserved.

He added: The Post Office have indicated that they will incorporate these features in a scheme of rehabilitation and conversion involving a variety of uses connected with their operations, including a branch Post Office and a public library.

I am pleased that this important, historic Liverpool landmark has found a new owner, and will soon have a new lease of life which will allow the public the fullest opportunity of enjoying and appreciating its outstanding qualities.

Built in 1801-2 to designs by Thomas Harrison the neo-classical building, home of the first public lending library, is listed Grade II. It was bought by the Government in 1980 to save it from redevelopment proposals involving its demolition. The Post Office intends to restore and convert it to a variety of uses.

Veterans going to Normandy
Mr John Standley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said in a Commons written reply that he expected to be able to indicate shortly whether his department would be able to offer assistance to Second World War veterans planning to go to Normandy for the fortieth anniversary celebrations of the D Day landings.

He understood that several thousand veterans had made arrangements with commercial tour companies

Authorities too slow in contracting out

PM's QUESTIONS

Only 23 contracts involving the privatization of local authority services had been completed, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during Commons questions.

Although they resulted in annual savings of £7m she said the progress in privatization had been disappointing.

Mr David Atkinson (Bournemouth, East, C), who raised the issue, had asked if she was satisfied with the progress being made by local authorities to privatize services.

Mrs Thatcher: No, I am dissatisfied with the progress which local authorities are making in seeking greater value for money by putting their services to the test of competition.

We are continuing to study what measures can be taken to speed up the process.

Mr Atkinson: There is ample evidence from those Conservative councils that have had the guts and visions to put out their services to private enterprise that this is the most positive form of saving rates.

Will she consider introducing legislation which will oblige all local authorities to compare costs of existing services with those provided by tender by the private sector?

Mrs Thatcher: I agree there are great opportunities in reducing expenditure by submitting contracts to private competition. So far progress has been disappointing.

I hope we can be much more successful in persuading local authorities to go out to private competition. I shall be reluctant to commit us to legislation because it would be a very technical measure to put before the House.

Howe under the same instructions

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, explained in the Commons that Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, was under the same instructions as she

in his negotiations (asked Mr Kinnoch) is the Foreign Secretary under instructions to ensure that any agreement reached in the making will impose a provision for rebates to the UK that are sufficient to offset the additional £675m in contributions which would arise if our own resources subscriptions were to go from 1 per cent to 1.4 per cent.

Mrs Thatcher: He is instructed, if I may use... (prolonged laughter), to impose the same instructions as I imposed upon myself.

Police doing superb job over pickets

The police were doing a superb job enabling mines to be taken to their place of work, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons.

Answering a question by Mr David Ashby (North West Leicestershire, C) on picketing, Mrs Thatcher said: We are totally and utterly against the actions of people who are trying to go about their law abiding business.

Tories 'will win 58 Euro seats'

The Conservative Party will win 58 of the 78 seats in Britain in the European elections in June if the nation votes as it did at the general election last year, it was predicted yesterday (our Political Reporter writes).

For a 43.5 per cent share of the votes it would get a 74.4 share of the seats, further exaggerating the distortion in the general election results, according to a study by Mr Michael Steed, of Manchester University, released by the Campaign for Fair Votes.

Mr Steed predicts that the Conservatives would be given an even greater advantage of seats over votes than they have at Westminster. For a 28.3 per cent share of the votes the Labour Party would win 24.4 per cent of 19 seats, while for a 26.1 per cent of the votes the Liberal SDP Alliance would win only one seat.

The forecast was published as the campaign announced that it had collected 600,000 signatures for a national petition calling for a referendum on proportional representation.

Mr Roy Jenkins, former leader of the Social Democrats and the campaign chairman, said that it was receiving a positive response

£2m research cuts

The Medical Research Council has decided how to distribute cuts of £2m next year among its research units.

There are 60 groups entirely funded by the council, and they will not receive the usual increases next year to take account of inflation. In addition, their budgets for recurrent expenses will be reduced.

There will be little money to buy new equipment, but direct... of those units will be free to freeze staff vacancies to release funds to support their general budgets.

The council also supports more than 1,400 project grants in universities. Some savings will be made back on the increases which are usually allowed on running expenses to take account of inflation.

Minister unmoved by Conservative demands to amend Rates Bill

RATE CAPPING

The local authority associations remained united in their total opposition to the Rates Bill, Dr John Cunningham, chief of opposition to the environment (Copeland, Lab), said in opening in the Commons the report stage of the Bill which empowers the Government to limit the rates made and precepts issued by local authorities.

Moving a new clause he said its purpose was to prevent the Government having three different systems or amounts of money under which it could control the budgets of local authorities which might be designated under the Bill's provisions. The new clause sought to ensure that the highest of the three figures should be used for all purposes.

It was important to try to find out what was in the Government's thinking for the future about the fact that it intended to use three different norms for individual authorities.

It was questionable whether a government should set a norm for a local authority at all and doubtful whether two norms was sensible or practicable. To have three different norms was surely stupid in the extreme. Yet that would be the situation if this Bill went ahead in its present form.

The local authority associations also remained united in their opposition to the Government's intention that grant-related expenditure should be the central test on which it based its decisions to apply the measures contained in the Bill. Such a test was rejected by both previous Secretaries of State for the Environment in this administration.

The Secretary for State has reneged on persistent and numerous assurances to the House and local government on that key issue and central point.

The new clause also dealt with expenditure guidance issued by the Secretary of State using his powers under the Local Government Finance Act 1982. This expenditure guidance had been enforced by massive grant penalties and was clearly central government's view of how much a local authority should be spending.

The Government had not only consistently reduced the resources available to councils but also confused and unsettled local government to the point where the working relationship between central and local government was worse than at any time in living memory.

The Government, in seeking to impose its will centrally on local government, was not concerned about the level of services but with its overwhelming desire to cut local government expenditure for the sake of cutting it.

The Opposition did not dissent from the Secretary of State's objective in seeking greater efficiency and improved performance from local authorities, but this was not the way to achieve it. The Government was forcing indiscriminate cuts on those people entrusted with the responsibility of providing services as important as education, the police, fire services and services to the elderly and the chronically sick and disabled.

The Government's policies were undermining the vital services, and causing further disadvantage in urban areas and inner cities and particularly to black and ethnic minorities.

He supported the new clause because the unamended Bill would be the beginning of the end for local democracy.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby, Oak, C) who said he supported the new clause and would be voting against the Bill, said the way it was decided how much local authorities should get was so unjust and so easy for some to comply with and so difficult for others that there was no sense of natural justice.

How is it (he said) that we have submitted to the local authority the rate of the rate and say this country cannot find a better way for local taxation to be raised? This is the only country that needs these draconian powers and we are the cradle of democracy.

Disraeli said that centralism was the death blow of freedom. And so it is. We cannot expect local authorities to play the game if we do not play the game with them.

The present system was a Russian roulette and determined that the needs of old people in Bournemouth were the same as those in Aston in Birmingham. This led to inequities and a sense of unfairness.

We are not being disagreeable (he went on) or fractious or disappointed. This Bill is not going to

save expenditure and it is not even going to work.

Mr Chris Smith (Islington South and Finsbury, Lab) said every single borough in inner London, whether Labour or Conservative, was spending 18 per cent above its grant related assessment figure for social services. It could not possibly be that every authority was wrong and the Department of Environment was right.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C) said this was bad law in the making. It flew directly in the face of Tory tradition and practice.

One of his most unhappy recent experiences was to talk with the elected councillors of South Staffordshire. Tories almost to a man and woman. He had never seen them more sadly united against the Government and its approach to local government in his life.

This was a classic case of expecting the impossible. People thought that something was being done about the rates. In fact the central issue of the rates was being fudged.

Any true Tory who considered himself to be a member of the party of Disraeli, who was against too much government interference and for the freedom of individual and for the balance of the relationship between central and local government, must pause and say "Is this mass of technical nonsense which is going to save the very most a tiny sum, worth supporting or is it to be confined to the dustbin?"

Sir George Young, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said grant related expenditure (GRE) was a yardstick for use in the distribution by Government of the block grant. It had always been accepted that these were not expenditure targets.

The purpose of the individual targets was to achieve the reduction in the level of local authority expenditure which the Secretary of State thought necessary having regard to general economic conditions.

Substituting the higher target or GRE would have a significant effect on the block grant. It would significantly reduce rates of authorities with targets most above GRE by increasing their grants.

The effect of the new clause would be to give more money to the extravagant authorities and, as a consequence, less money to those who had been more responsible.

Effectively expenditure levels set under the Rates Bill could not be exceeded. Precisely because these levels could not be exceeded the Government had provided in the Bill for a redeployment procedure which allowed the Secretary of State to take into account the particular circumstances of individual local authorities.

Mr Jack Straw, an Opposition spokesman on the environment (Blackburn, Lab), said if 20 or so authorities were rate capped but some Conservative MPs had said, for all that suffering a Government would still not let its savings.

There was no way in which the Government could achieve the savings postulated in the White Paper by making cuts in the list of authorities.

The new clause was rejected by 301 votes to 193 - Government majority, 108.

Right to buy

An Opposition proposal might result in almost all one or two apartment houses in Scotland being excluded from the right to buy, Lord Gray of Contin, Minister of State, Scottish Office, said during the committee stage of the Tenants' Bill in the House of Lords.

A new clause, moved by Lord Ross of Marnock (Lab) sought to prevent the sale of council houses which the local authority usually let to elderly people.

The new clause was rejected by 113 votes to 94.

Study into provision of oxygen equipment

Asked to encourage and support British companies to develop and expand the production and use of British-designed oxygen equipment, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in a written reply in the Commons: A number of companies already sell oxygen concentrators in this country, some of which are manufactured in the United Kingdom.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of State for Health, has recently commissioned from the accountants, Arthur Andersen and Company, a study of the arrangements for the supply of domiciliary oxygen. We will decide in the light of the results of the study the extent to which oxygen concentrators should replace the existing arrangements for the provision of existing therapy to domiciliary patients.

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created. It alters seriously the whole relationship between central and local government. What we are considering in the light of the so-called doctrine of the unitary state and the principles of parliamentary supremacy.

He hoped that before Conservative MPs supported this measure they would bear in mind that they would be doing so contrary to every precept of the rule of law for which the Conservative Party had ever stood.

Mr John Cartwright (Woolwich, SDP) said he supported the new clause because it reminded MPs that the Bill had not appeared out of a vacuum.

The general view in the committee which considered the Bill was that the grant-related expenditure system was rough justice, but the only system available based on a local authority's need to spend.

Given its past record (he added) I understand why the Government needs a belt and braces. But to need a belt, braces and a stout piece of string is going a bit far.

The new clause would go a long way towards simplifying the system and introducing an element of natural justice.

Mr Reginald Prentice (Davenport, C) said the Bill was bad and would not become an acceptable by any amendment.

The Government should listen to the mass of expert criticism, particularly from Conservative councillors.

He hoped that the Government would be encouraged to make minimum use of the powers. Any use of those powers was potentially damaging because it opened a new chapter in the relationship between central and local government. For many years, governments of all parties had had powers in that direction but had relied on persuasion, using carrot and stick apparatus.

To take the new step of laying down maximum expenditure of local authorities changed the constitutional relationship. If those powers were pursued widely and used more and more every year, it would be the beginning of the end to local democracy.

He supported the new clause because the unamended Bill would be the beginning of the end for local democracy.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby, Oak, C) who said he supported the new clause and would be voting against the Bill, said the way it was decided how much local authorities should get was so unjust and so easy for some to comply with and so difficult for others that there was no sense of natural justice.

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ervative
Bill

Mental health care: 3

Doctor protests over cost of hospital cash cuts

Friern hospital in north London is a microcosm of the debate over the closure and rundown of mental hospitals which have aroused anxiety over the policy of community care for the mentally ill.

It is among six London hospitals which are the first of 30 expected to be gradually closed by the Government over the next 10 years.

Fifteen years ago the impressive Victorian building housed 1,000 patients. That has been cut to 800, and last July the North-east Thames Regional Health Authority, announce that beds would be cut to 200 by 1994.

Psychiatrists at Friern, including Dr Patrick Campbell, a consultant, have unusually "gone public" in their protest. "My fear is that many of those already discharged have disappeared on to the streets, or live in appalling squalor because of community neglect. Now the hard rump are to go, and I cannot see any will to prevent the same thing happening to them."

As Friern runs down, the £12m annual running cost will be transferred to the district health authorities, Bloomsbury, Islington, Haringey, and Hammersmith, and the social services departments within its catchment area.

Dr Campbell believes it will cost three times as much to provide high-care homes for the most disturbed patients at

Friern. He claims that the health authority is basing its assessment of needs on the average incidence of mentally ill.

The closure of up to one third of Britain's mental hospitals will, in the eyes of many professionals, simply add to the burden of caring for former patients which the community has already shown itself unwilling to bear. COLIN HUGHES concludes a series by looking at the debate surrounding the rundown of one London hospital out of six scheduled for closure.

people in Britain, when London's rate is three times higher because so many vagrants drift in to the capital.

"Awful though it is, this place does provide some protection against the deficiencies of the service outside," he says.

In practice the transfer of responsibility is being frustrated by friction between the multiple responsible authorities. Professional rivalries and buck-passing are being built into a service that demands cooperation, according to Dr John McCarthy, a Richmond Fellowship officer for hostel provision, who has been trying in vain to persuade the authorities to involve voluntary groups in providing new homes.

Dr Malcolm Weller, also a Friern Consultant points to the present three-year waiting list.

"At current rates of developing community care it will take 40 years to provide for the people who have already discharged, never mind those who are supposed to go over the next ten."

The regional health authority's answer is double funding. Friern will continue to receive resources to extend its halfway house rehabilitation centre, reputedly among the world's best, and to maintain its other services while equivalent funds are passed over to the district and local authorities.

"It's planned chaos," Mrs Pamela Jenkinson, an adviser on Friern and other closures to the National Schizophrenia Fellowship, says. "The Government sees this as a perfect opportunity to save money. They are using the goodwill over community care to implement cuts."

Other Friern defenders, such as consultant Dr Julian Left, insist on maintaining optimism. "This has to be seen as a large scale experiment which has been going on for many years with some degree of success." If facilities are not provided then doctors should refuse to release them, but the principle must not be sacrificed.

Dr Campbell remains sceptical. "The history of mental health has been a series of scandals. The last was overcrowding and poor conditions. This is the next one, and it's going to get worse."

Price cuts in petrol may offset Budget rise

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

Petrol price increases caused by the Budget could be wiped out by a new wave of price cuts.

Esso has given financial support to dealers in the North-west, Bristol and South Wales allowing cuts at the pumps of 3p a gallon.

The Budget increased petrol prices by 5p a gallon five weeks after Esso cut prices nationally by 4p. Pump prices now average 184.1p for four-star.

Esso's initiative has reduced the price at selected sites to 181p and the other companies are preparing to match those prices as well as introducing promotion campaigns.

Esso has renewed dealer support because supermarket chains are marketing petrol aggressively.

Smaller independent marketing companies have bought petrol on the Rotterdam spot market at around \$28.3 a tonne. At that price profit can still be made at a pump price of 180p.

BP Oil, which yesterday announced profits on last year's petrol and oil sales of £53m, compared with a £39m loss in 1982, launches a £2m promotion today offering prizes of between 50p and £20,000.

The campaign comes after Shell's "Make Money" campaign which has increased sales at its filling stations by an estimated 20 per cent.

Realities of El Salvador's election

How voters were left in the dark

From Alan Tomlinson
San Salvador

"Whoever wins will have to adjust himself to the realities of El Salvador's social, political and military realities," remarked Lieutenant-Colonel Domingo Monterrosa as we sat at dinner in a restaurant opposite his barracks in the provincial capital of San Miguel on the eve of Sunday's presidential elections.

We ate and talked in darkness because the guerrillas had sabotaged the town's electricity supplies. Then suddenly the lights came on again and soon lorry-loads of the colonel's troops drove past, cheering their success in restoring the power supply so promptly. They were barely out of sight when the lights went out again.

The colonel seemed pleased with his latest offensive which, he said, had pushed the rebels back into their strongholds to make voting possible in many previously rebel-held towns.

As we were driven back to our hotel a shot rang out. "Colonel, they are shooting!" came the nervous voice of a soldier from the back of our jeep. Colonel Monterrosa bid us a calm goodnight without dipping the lights of his vehicle.

The next morning we set off to watch polling in the north-east of the country which has borne the brunt of four years of civil war. We were not three miles out of town when we ran into the guerrillas at the first of their many road blocks we were to see that day. Under their guns we stepped from our car to explain our mission.

"We are mining the road," the guerrillas said. "But we have not done so yet, so you may go ahead. Be careful on your way back."

The colonel had told us that



Front runner: Señor Duarte (left) claiming a win with his running-mate, Señor Rodolfo Castillo Claramount.

many of the mines planted by guerrillas to keep transport of the roads during the elections were dummies. None the less, the only traffic we saw on the road throughout the day was either Army or press. At ever crossroads large groups of people waited in vain for a bus or a lorry to carry them to the rebel stronghold of northern Morazan we found small groups of peasants walking to the polling stations. But for many others the journey was either too far or too dangerous.

Where towns were full of

soldiers, we saw long queues of voters waiting to cast their votes. There was also much confusion. The complex, computerized polling system was just too much for the Salvadoran country folk, of whom 17 per cent is illiterate.

Many had queued for hours to find that their names and identity numbers were not on the list. They wandered off forlornly to another polling station. It was mid-afternoon before in vigilantes began to abandon the system to scribble names on the back of the neat computer print-outs.

The £1m computer donated

by the United States appeared to be doing more to undermine the elections than the modest muscle flexing we had seen from the rebels.

At Ocotea, on the edge of "bandit country", we bumped into Mr Thomas Pickering, the American Ambassador, who declared himself pleased with what he was seeing. People walking miles and waiting patiently to exercise their democratic right. "Can you imagine people doing this in California?" he asked.

We pushed on, across the Torola river into northern Morazan. The bridge had been blown up so we drove through the river entering the town of Mecangera, crumbling and abandoned with not even a dog in sight. Walking ahead of the car in search of mines we eventually ran into another guerrilla road block.

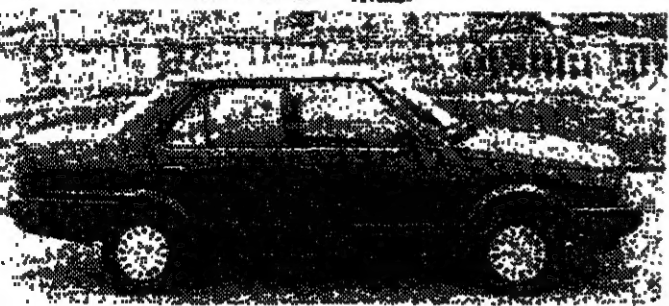
No, the guerrillas said, we could not go further to talk to people in towns above us which the ballot boxes could not reach.

In late afternoon, the square in front of the cathedral at San Vicente was packed. The voting was obviously very lively. The military band struck up a tune. It took a few moments to recognise the strains of the *Death March*. We heard women crying as the first coffin was borne shoulder-high up the cathedral steps. We had stumbled upon the funeral of a group of young soldiers killed in an ambush the day before.

In the capital, it seemed the confusion was even worse. One of the three main candidates had found his name missing from the list. There was talk of declaring the whole process void. "That could never happen," a veteran American correspondent remarked. "It would be too much of a blow to Reagan's prestige."

Fiat's cut-price Regata challenges rivals

Fiat yesterday added another car to its fast changing range with a replacement for the 131 Mirafiori family saloon. The Regata (below) which goes on sale in Britain immediately with engines from 1300cc to 1600cc, will be a direct competitor for Ford's Orion and Vauxhall's Cavalier in the



Austin threat to buy car parts abroad

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Mr Harold Musgrove, chairman and chief executive of Austin Rover, said yesterday that he will not jeopardize his company's improved performance by continuing to support uncompetitive British component manufacturers when he can buy foreign components 15 per cent cheaper.

Austin Rover is the biggest customer of the British component industry, spending £850m last year.

Mr Musgrove told the Government that "unfair" car imports from Spain were reducing British car production and that meant that domestic components firms were becoming uncompetitive because they were supplying a dwindling

market. The only real hope for them was to sell overseas.

"We have to tap into the same component volume base as our international competitors. That has to be moving out of this country. Unless something is done to reverse the trend we shall have to buy our parts overseas at the right price."

He said it was "economic suicide" to allow Spanish cars to pay only 4 per cent import duty in Britain while our cars travelling in the opposite direction has to pay 36 per cent.

Mr Musgrove said: "British component firms cannot rely on Austin Rover for their survival. We are telling them: 'You have to get your act together'."

Duarte must face runoff poll

From John Carlin, San Salvador

Not one official statistic of El Salvador's elections on Sunday had been released yesterday morning, but agreement appeared to be widespread that Señor José Napoleón Duarte and Major Roberto d'Aubuisson would be fighting for the presidency in a run-off election within 40 days.

The first official result had been expected at 8pm on Sunday, two hours after voting ended. Given the chaos that reigned at the polling stations, it was explained, the official results would begin to trickle in on Monday afternoon. Late on

Monday night journalists, cameras at the ready, duly appeared at the national counting centre in San Salvador, only to discover a sea of eerie inactivity.

Ballois have been counted at all the country's polling stations but the results have in many cases not arrived in San Salvador and in all cases have not been officially released.

Nevertheless, everyone is behaving as if the results had been declared and the elections are officially over. Señor Duarte is victorious; Major d'Aubuisson is menacingly

crestfallen; provisional president Alvaro Magaña calls the elections "a rejection of left-wing terrorism"; President Reagan, in Washington, exults at "another victory for freedom over tyranny".

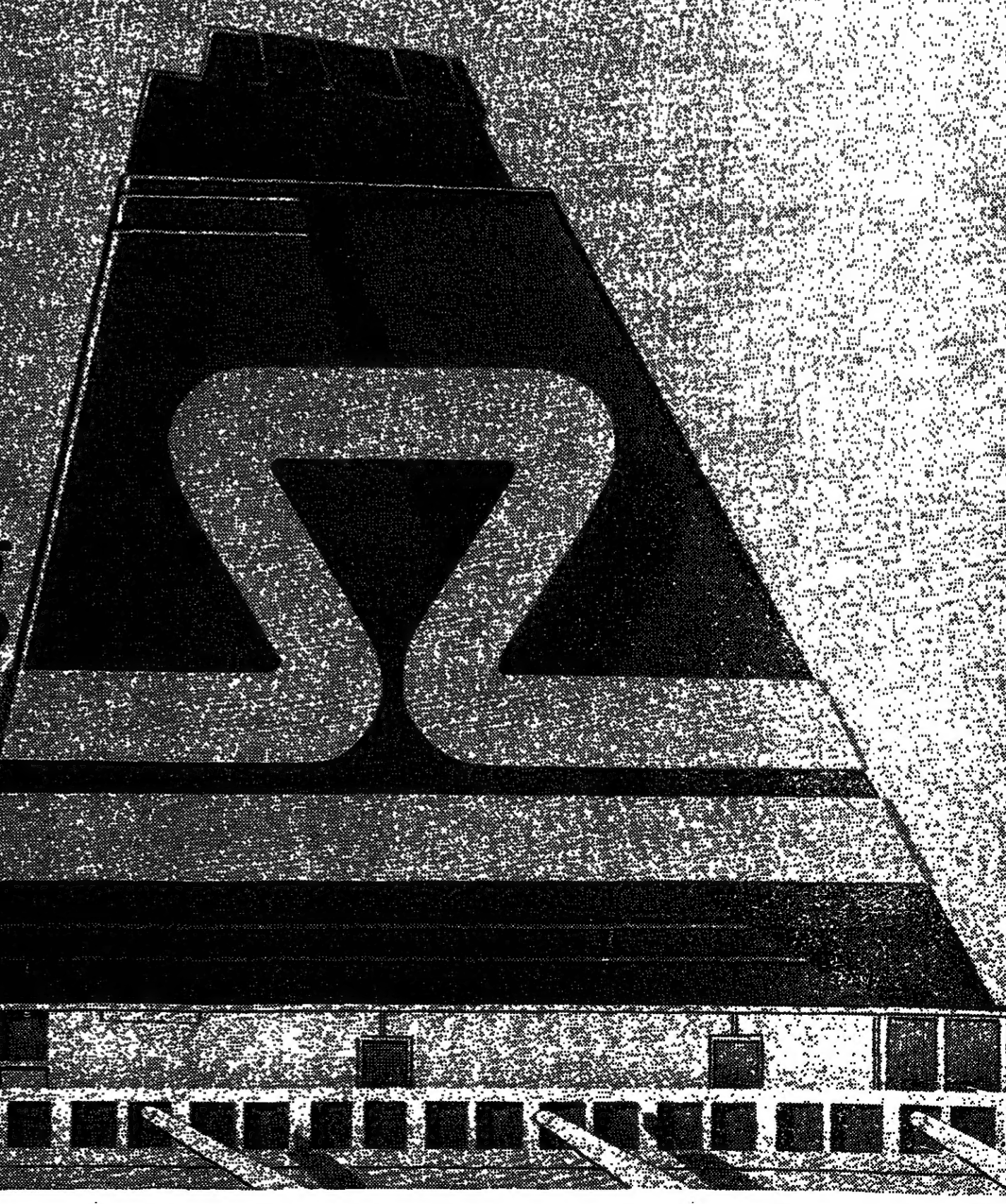
No one, it appears, disputes the claims of Señor Duarte, a Christian Democrat, based on his understanding of counts at the polling stations, that he won a majority but not an outright victory, with Major d'Aubuisson, candidate of the Republican Nationalist Alliance Party, (Arena), taking second place.

Six sentenced to hang for Kuwait bombing

Kuwait (Reuters) - A court yesterday sentenced six people to death by public hanging for their part in a series of bombings in Kuwait in December which killed six people and wounded more than 80.

Seven of the 25 accused men, four of whom were tried in absentia, were sentenced to life imprisonment, four to 15 years, one to 10 years and two to five years. Three of those sentenced to death are still on the run. Five of the accused were acquitted.

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Echoes of Andropov as Gorbachov demands dynamism and discipline

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The Chernomir leadership has vowed to continue Mr Yuri Andropov's reformist economic programme despite Mr Chernomir's declared doubts and conservative approach.

Sources said that a key role in keeping the Andropov reforms alive was being played by Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, aged 52, who is thought to have challenged Mr Chernomir for the leadership last month but remains in charge of economic matters on the Politburo.

At a meeting in the Kremlin on agriculture reported on the front page of Pravda yesterday Mr Chernomir said the food programme adopted in 1982 was "only the beginning". He said new methods were needed, including a decisive improvement in agro-industrial complexes and management reorganization. "Frankly speaking there is very little time left... It is vital to find urgent and thorough solutions".

Mr Chernomir's remarks were broadcast on television.

which showed him leaning forward, supporting himself on the desk in front. He spoke poorly and seemed short of breath, as on previous occasions since becoming party leader on February 13.

The main speech, however, came from Mr Gorbachov, who has overseen an upturn in agricultural production including the grain harvest, over the past year - and some improvement in food supplies.

Mr Gorbachov put the increase in output at 5 per cent, but said that planned targets for grain, meat and milk had still not been met. In a deliberate echo of Andropov era terminology he called for dynamism, initiative and discipline, and said that officials should be "politically mature, literate and competent organizers with a feeling for the new" - a shaft evidently aimed at the hide-bound bureaucrats Mr Andropov tried to purge but who were protected by Mr Chernomir, who is 72.

At a press conference yesterday officials from industry and trade unions said the "brigade system" of payment by results would continue and even be expanded in both agriculture and industry. Under the system favoured by Mr Andropov, teams or "brigades" of workers on farms and in factories enter into a contract with the management and are paid according to productivity.

The team leader, known as a "brigadier", distributes the profits to the team.

Observers noted that the Kremlin meeting was not attended by Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Prime Minister, who normally deals with economic problems, or by two other Politburo members from key agricultural regions, Mr Dmitriy Kunaev of Kazakhstan and Mr Vladimir Shcherbitsky of the Ukraine. Mr Viktor Grishin, the Moscow city party boss, also stayed away. No explanations were given.

Jordan deal on arms sours visit by Herzog

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

President Chaim Herzog of Israel arrived in London yesterday with the avowed intent of improving Anglo-Israeli relations, only to find his own embassy scuttling over reports of an Anglo-Arab arms deal.

Leaks on the £90m sale of anti-aircraft missiles to Jordan have been happily timed for Britain, with the Queen halfway through her controversial visit to the Hashemite kingdom.

But they could hardly have been less fortuitous for Mr Herzog, who is here for five days as a guest of the Anglo-Jewish community.

This is the visit during which he intends to invite the Queen to Israel, when he lunches with her at Windsor Castle on Monday, as was disclosed in a Times interview last week.

But he will also call on Mrs Thatcher in Downing Street and will be a fellow guest with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, at a lawyers' dinner chaired by Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor. President Herzog, born in Belfast and son of Ireland's Chief Rabbi, is a member of Lincoln's Inn.

Other functions he will attend include dinners with the Anglo-Israel Association and with members of the Jewish Community in London. But details of his programme are not being released for security reasons.

The former chief of military intelligence in Israel and one-time ambassador at the United Nations is now aged 65, said in last week's interview that he would like Britain to support Israel more openly in international forums.

Diplomat wounded in Beirut

From Our Correspondent Beirut

Gunmen wounded a French diplomat in west Beirut yesterday, while French troops continued to leave amid scattered fighting between Christian and Muslim militias.

East Beirut and nearby Christian suburbs came under artillery fire at mid-morning. Police said 20 civilians were injured, including four children from one of the few Muslim families in the area.

M. Sauer, Glazov, was shot in the main shopping district of Hamra as he walked to work. He was hit in the side, stomach and thigh and a bullet grazed his forehead. He was in a stable condition after surgery at the American University Hospital.

No one claimed responsibility. Two other French citizens - an embassy driver and a diplomat's wife - were shot on the streets of west Beirut earlier this year. The driver died, but the woman was only slightly hurt.

A military spokesman said 205 French soldiers left yesterday, bringing the total to almost 500 of the 1,300-man contingent. An embassy source said 40 French ceasefire observers would be arriving soon to help police monitor militias along the "green line" between east and west Beirut.

East-West thaw on Kornienko agenda

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Georgy Kornienko, the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, arrived in Britain for high-level talks last night, with the latest sharp exchange between the two governments still echoing in Whitehall.

But he remains the high-ranking Russian to come here on official business for eight years, and his two-day visit is unlikely to be seen other than a sign of improving relations.

His programme starts today at the Foreign Office where he will meet Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Minister of State and his official host, followed by Lady Young who is his opposite number in Whitehall. He will also attend a seminar at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) before going to watch the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden tonight.

Tomorrow he will see Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Sir Julian Baring, the Deputy Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, and will visit the Department of Trade and Industry, before returning to Moscow on Friday morning.

East-West relations and arms control, as well as bilateral trade, are at the top of the agenda, while it remains to be seen how far British ministers will broach the delicate subject of human rights.

These are all important in themselves, especially since the Soviet decision to suspend the

nuclear arms talks in Geneva last November. Sir Geoffrey and his ministers will urge the Russians to return to the negotiating table during their conversations today and tomorrow. But the fact that Mr Kornienko is coming at all is more significant. He was originally due here last September, returning a visit made by Mr Rifkind to Moscow in April.

The invitation was withdrawn by Britain, however, after the South Korean airliner was shot down, and there has been speculation since over its renewal. Aged 59, Mr Kornienko is a sophisticated career diplomat who speaks English fluently and has long specialized in the United States. He once accompanied President Brezhnev to the US and France.

Other subjects for discussion will probably include the July visit by Sir Geoffrey to Moscow, which was disclosed two weeks ago.

Mr Kornienko has arrived in the wake of attacks by *Tass* and *Pravda* on Mrs Thatcher, after her article in *The Times* in which she criticized the era of détente in the late 1970s as a period of "make-believe".

But the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary have also spoken recently of the need to broaden the dialogue with Moscow and it is in this context that Mr Kornienko's visit should be seen.

Prince and communist unite against gangsters

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The little town of Paliano is digging in its heels against the decision to send 18 members of the Camorra (Naples version of the Mafia) to the local prison which already includes among its inmates about 40 terrorists.

Paliano is a charming hill town near Frosinone to the south of Rome, which is best known as a tourist centre and for its splendid natural park owned by Prince Antonello Ruffo di Calabria. Signor Giuseppe Allevi, the Communist mayor, has injected the idea of sending alleged Camorra criminals to his town, all of whom have broken the rules of the Neapolitan criminal organization by giving evidence to investigators. He is supported

by the prince who is profoundly shocked that Paliano should be about to receive examples of "the deepest evil, this cancer of society".

The mayor's fear is that Paliano will attract killers intent on eliminating men whom the Camorra regards as traitors. Meanwhile, a telephone call, ostensibly from a Red Brigade group insisted that the record theft at the weekend of the equivalent of £15m was the work of the terrorists and not of common criminals.

The idea that terrorists are about to begin a spring offensive would be dispiriting for those who felt the battle against terrorism had been virtually won.



Youthful convert: The Rev Jesse Jackson on the stump in Buffalo, New York, before next Tuesday's key primary.

Bonn's arms policy worries Jews

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

strengthen links between Germans and Jews. As well as meeting Dr Kohl, he had talks on Monday with Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the parliamentary leader of the Social Democrats. Yesterday he visited the site of Dachau concentration camp, near Munich.

Mr Bronfman, told Die

Welt, a paper strongly critical of arms exports to Saudi Arabia, that he knew from his meeting with Dr Kohl in Washington earlier this month that Germany intended to increase Saudi stability by supplying defence armaments. But he said this would reduce rather than increase stability in the Middle East.



Old Stagers: James Cagney, the actor, now confined to a wheelchair, receiving a kiss from Mrs Nancy Reagan and congratulations from the President at a White House ceremony where he was also given the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Barricade believed escape-proof

E Germans build electric fence

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

As East German border guards continued to dismantle automatic firing devices along the frontier with the West, the West German press carried details yesterday of a new border fence being erected behind the old one which experts here say is virtually impossible to scale.

The 10ft high electrically charged barricade is set back some 500 yards from the main fence and consists of metal railings with razor-sharp edges designed to cut the hands of anyone attempting to climb it.

On the inward-facing side about 25 alarm wires are stretched along the length of the fence, with a further eight on the outward-facing side. If anyone touches more than one wire he causes a short-circuit setting off alarms in the watchtowers and observation huts.

Work apparently began on

the new fence about a year ago, several months before the dismantling of the scatter guns. It now extends about 28 miles along the border, most of it in the northern sector.

Details of construction were given in this week's issue of *Der Spiegel*, which said that on February 13 one of the electricians working on the outer side of the new installation leaped across the old fence into West Germany and has since provided Bonn with a meticulous account of the new fence.

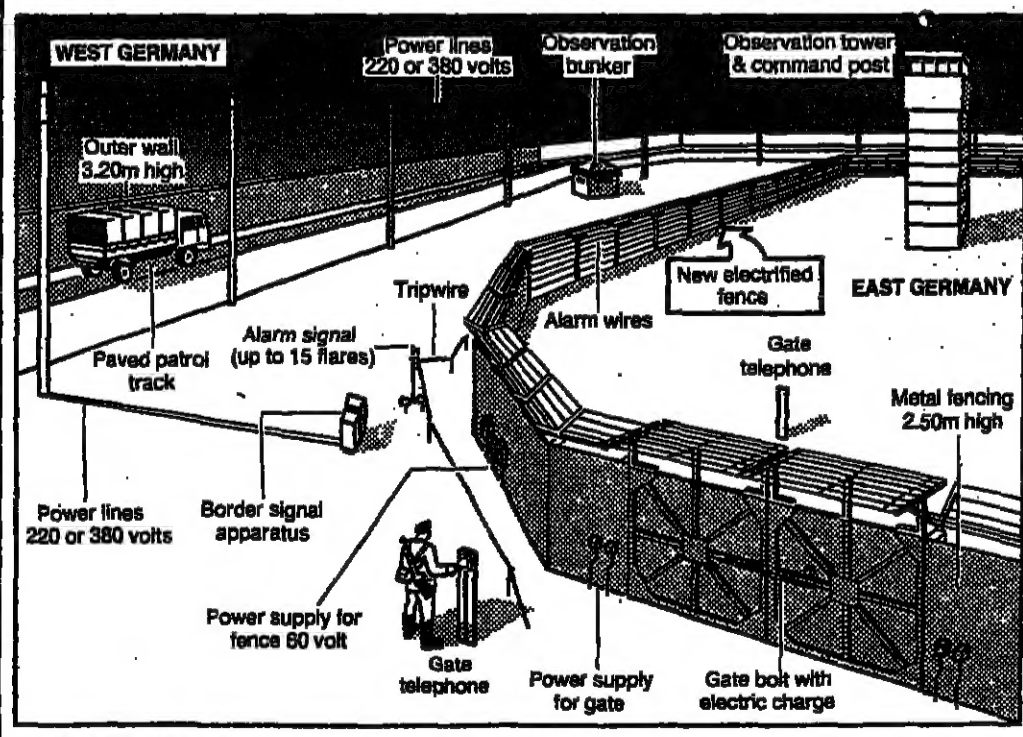
The "border signal fence", as it is known, tests on concrete slabs that extend some 4ft into the ground to prevent tunnelling. Raked earth extending 20ft from the fence gives visual warning of anyone coming near. Sheets of steel, said to be imported from West Germany, are bolted to the fence posts.

Watchtowers are set up

every 500 yards or so, and if anyone succeeds in climbing the fence he is then confronted with delicate trip wires on the other side which signal to the watchtowers exactly where he is.

The new fence is not lethal, as the electric current through the alarm wires is only 60 volts. But it is so secure that the East German authorities can confidently continue removing the 50,000 automatic firing devices, the 120 miles of minefields, and other deadly devices which give the world a very negative image of East Germany every time someone is shot or maimed on the border.

Guards have had less occasion to open fire in recent months, and Bonn is hoping that the official order to shoot escapers will soon be lifted. This would remove one of the main points of friction in negotiations.



So near yet so far: Latest refinement in border control is a fence to detect escapers.

Civil trial for Bignone likely

Buenos Aires (NYT) - An Argentine judge has challenged a new law under which the trials of army officers would come under the jurisdiction of military courts, and has ordered that an action against Argentina's last military president be taken up by a civilian court.

The ruling lawyers said, was likely to affect the prosecution of military officers accused in the disappearances of thousands of people under the military junta that ruled Argentina until late last year.

The decision involves former President Reynaldo Bignone, who was arrested on January 10 in connection with the disappearance of two armed conscripts, members of the Communist Youth Federation. Both disappeared in 1976 after they were arrested in the grounds of the National Military College while General Bignone was director.

The Criminal Court of Appeals in Buenos Aires has ruled that charges concerning the disappearances are offences outside the jurisdiction of the military code of justice. The court refused a request to have President Bignone tried in a military court.

"This is very important," said a prominent lawyer who has served on the Supreme Court. "Unless it is overruled by the Supreme Court, it means that many cases of disappeared persons will be judged by civilians."

Present Raul Alfonsín's Government has ordered the prosecution of commanders who issued orders in the disappearances and of lower-ranking men who committed excesses on their own initiative. The Government has also enacted a law reinforcing the jurisdiction of military courts to permit the armed forces to conduct their own investigations. This was the subject of the Appeal Court's ruling.

Human rights workers and lawyers have said they fear the military will be whitewashed in its own courts, even though military verdicts are subject to civilian review.

Under the recent reviewed Argentine military code, common crimes committed by military officers before September 1983 come under military jurisdiction. But under Argentine constitutional law, abduction remains a crime until it is solved. That is it remains a continuing crime until the victim is found, a lawyer said.

Argentine officers appeared to be paramount interest during this period of government change.

For the past week, hundreds of lawyers and human rights workers have been registering new complaints and hearing evidence. The National Commission for the Disappeared, appointed by President Alfonsín, had recorded a total of 4,426 disappeared persons according to a spokesman. "Of these, 950 are names we had never heard before," the spokesman said, remarking on the recent increase in reports of old cases. Many people are coming forward now because they were afraid before.

The Supreme Council of the armed forces had received about 250 cases, which was fewer than expected, said Señor Horacio Jaunarena, Deputy Minister of Defence. He believed the number was low because thousands of Argentine exiles are still abroad and many people prefer not to take their complaints to the military.

Holiday off Argentina has dropped a national holiday celebrating the invasion of the Falkland Islands. The decree ordering the change said the holiday, put on the calendar by the previous military government, commemorates "an event whose celebration is incongruous with the sentiments it evokes".

Turks pick different kind of opposition

From Rasit Gardiller
Ankara

While Mr Turgut Ozal's resounding success in Sunday's local polls consolidated his power, the outcome of the contest has already started to eat away at the country's new political structure so meticulously crafted by the former military regime.

The electorate made its support clear for the Prime Minister with 44 per cent of the total votes, securing for the ruling Motherland Party control of the municipalities in 54 of the country's 67 provincial parties.

With the same clarity it rejected the two opposition parties allowed into the Parliament last November, in effect turning their functions over to the social democratic Sodep and the conservative Right Way Party, which were both excluded from the general election.

While Sodep emerged from the local polls as the second biggest party with 22 per cent of the votes and the Right Way Party followed with 44 per cent, the Populist Party, which has 117 seats in the 400-strong parliament, saw its more than 30 per cent support in general elections dwindle to a meagre 8 per cent in Sunday's contest.

Meanwhile the centre-right Nationalist Democracy Party, the big loser of last November, continued its downhill roll with 6.4 per cent. It has 67 deputies in the Parliament, whose continued its downhill roll with 6.4 per cent. It has 67 deputies in the Parliament, whose continued allegiance to the party leadership had become dubious even before Sunday.

Immediately after the results were known, the leaders of both extra-parliamentary opposition parties, disappointed though there were over the slipped chance of forcing an early general election, pressed home their claim to be the "true opposition".

While the press commentators conceded the anomaly of leaving the two which together account for nearly 40 per cent of the votes outside the sphere of "official politics" Mr Ozal made clear that it would be so.

Emerging from a meeting with President Kenan Evren a day after the poll, the Prime Minister belittled the support given by the electorate to the two extra-parliamentary rivals, arguing that they could be regarded as "local opposition at best", as it was a local poll in which they had contended.

The troubles started to plague the Populist Party yesterday. Its leader, Mr Calp, had pledged to resign if the party was defeated by Sodep in the local polls.

When, however, he allowed himself to be persuaded by the party executive to remain at his post despite the Populists' humiliation before the Sodep, Mr Niyazi Aras, the deputy chairman, handed his resignation in protest, which was accepted.

But when the deputy secretary-general also tended his resignation, it was refused by the apparently panic-stricken party leadership, while the rumours were rife here of further defections from the party.

Sékou Touré dies on the operating table

Cleveland, Ohio (Reuters) - President Ahmed Sékou Touré of Guinea died during heart surgery in a United States hospital after being rushed from West Africa in a specially equipped aircraft provided by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. He was 62 and the longest-ruling modern African leader.

He died at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation Hospital on Monday after a two and a half hour attempt to save his life on the operating table, a hospital spokesman said yesterday.

He said President Sékou Touré arrived earlier the same day after a 10-hour flight in a flying cardiac intensive care unit - an aircraft equipped with the latest monitoring and life support technology. The decision to transfer him to Cleveland was taken by four physicians who flew to Conakry, the Guinean capital, on Saturday.

Both the visit by the Cleveland physicians and the loan of the aircraft by King Fahd followed requests by King Hassan of Morocco who earlier sent three of his own doctors.

● DAKAR: President Touré's death has stunned West Africa (Susan MacDonald writes). Over the past few years he had emerged from isolation to become one of the foremost leaders in the region. The shock was summed up by President Abdou Diouf of Senegal when he spoke of his profound emotion and great sadness.

Mr Lansana Beavogui is the number two man in the regime and has been Prime Minister since 1972. He is acting head of state for the time being. Under the constitution a national plebiscite must be held within 45 days to elect a new President. Leading article, page 15

Papandreou loses his Finance Minister

Athens - The Greek Government lost its third Finance Minister since coming to power 30 months ago. In what appears to be a dramatic clash over its economic policies (Mario Modiano writes).

A sudden statement by Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Prime Minister, that Mr Yiannis Potamitis and one of his under-secretaries had resigned gave no reason.

Mr Potamitis is known to have had serious policy differences with Mr Gerasimos Arsenis, the Minister of National Economy, often described as the country's economic czar, and who now takes over the Finance portfolio as well.

Romania sacks two ministers

Bucharest (AP) - Romania's Ministers of Agriculture and Electric Power have been replaced. *Scinteia*, the party newspaper reported, because their two ministries failed to meet quotas last year.

On the orders of President Ceausescu, Mr Ion Tesu is succeeded by George David and Mr Trandafir Cocarita by Nicolae Busui.

General shot

Lyons (AP) - General Guy Delfosse, regional commander of the gendarmerie in central France, was shot dead while trying to negotiate with two bandits who entered a bank while he was there on business. The raiders fled without money but took the surveillance camera.

Dam money

Canberra (Reuters) - Australia's federal government has offered the state of Tasmania a package worth \$A230m (£127.5m) to compensate for the halting of the hydro-electric dam project in one of the world's most beautiful wildernesses. The package includes power subsidy over 10 years.

Pirates held

Bangkok (Reuters) - Four fishermen have been charged in Songkhla with piracy, rape and abduction in an attack on a boatload of Vietnamese refugees off the Thai coast last June. It was the first arrest of such pirates since December 1981.

Clean-up defied

Zurich (AP) - The director of Switzerland's largest circulation newspaper *Blick*, fined 3,000 Swiss francs (£1,000) by Zurich for publishing massage parlour advertisements, said he will continue to run them until a court rules on the fine's legality.

Berlin scare

Berlin (AP) - Up to 1,000 residents may have to be evacuated from more than 100 houses in the Rudow district of West Berlin which are built over a Second World War anti-tank ditch now found to be full of live ammunition.

Clampdown keeps Chile quiet

Santiago (Reuters) - Tight security by Chile's military government apparently succeeded in keeping Santiago calm yesterday at the start of a day of protest to press for a quick return to democracy.

Prince says he wants a daughter

Gaborone (Reuters) - The Prince of Wales, on the final leg of his four-nation African tour, yesterday inspected a project outside Gaborone. The Prince, on the first full day of a 10-day visit to Botswana first inspected work on the main wall at Gaborone dam, the reservoir for the southern region of this drought-stricken country.

Then he spent more than an hour at the secondary school, the largest in Botswana with 1,300 pupils.

He was asked by children about Prince William. To gales of laughter, he said the young prince was very mischievous and broke everything in the house. He said it would be nice if his next child was a girl.

Papandreu
loses
his Finance
Minister

Romania sacks
two ministers

General shot

Dam money

Pirates held

Clean-up deal

Berlin says

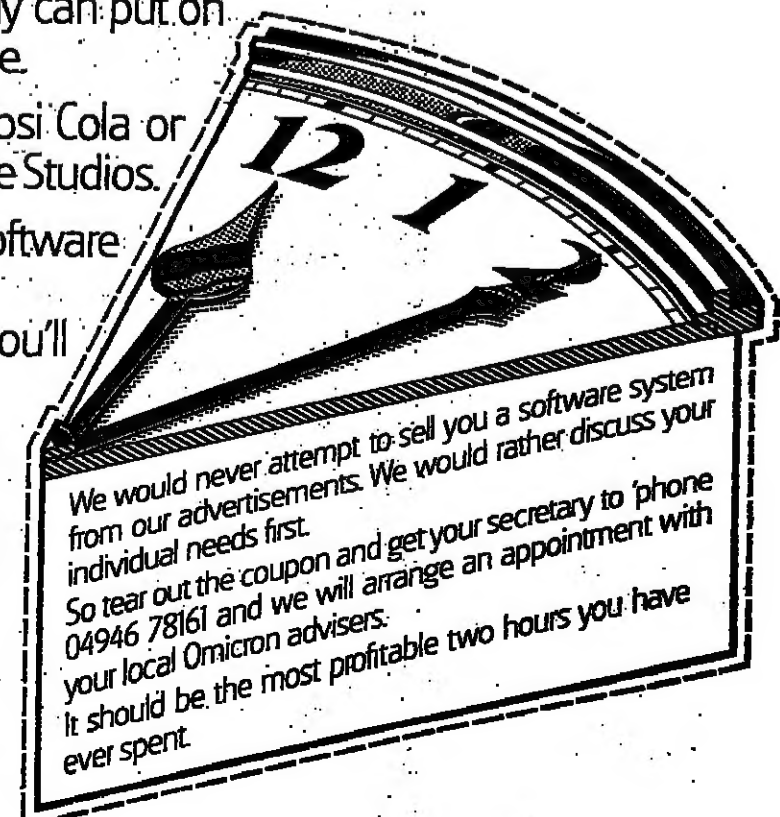
ware dies on
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Luanda placates Pretoria and confirms Lusaka peace accord

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa is satisfied that Angola still stands by last month's Lusaka peace accord, and says it will continue to take part in the joint Luanda-Pretoria monitoring commission which is supervising the withdrawal of South African troops from southern Angola.

This was made clear yesterday by Mr Roelof "Pik" Botha, the Foreign Minister, when he disclosed that he had received "certain explanations" from Luanda in response to his demand for an urgent clarification of last week's joint statement by President Dos Santos of Angola and President Castro of Cuba.

South Africa took strong exception to some of the language in the statement which, it said at the time, raised doubts about Angola's continuing commitment to the Lusaka accord. Now, Mr Botha says, Angola has confirmed that it "recognizes the Lusaka agreement and accepts its validity".

What particularly rankles in Pretoria was a reference in the Angola-Cuban statement to solidarity with the "heroic struggle" of Swapo guerrillas in Namibia and the banned

African National Congress (ANC) in South Africa.

The statement also spoke of Swapo and the ANC as the "sole legitimate representatives" of the Namibian and South African peoples. Mr Botha pointed out, with some justice, that this was a little hard to accept when Angolan troops simultaneously had been involved alongside South African soldiers in clashes with Swapo.

The Angolans, meanwhile, have issued a statement through their national news agency, saying that their expression of support for the two black nationalist organizations was merely a confirmation of "positions of principle" and had no bearing on the validity of the Lusaka accord.

Luanda has also accused South Africa of ignoring the "most important part" of the Cuban-Angola statement - namely, the offer to withdraw Cuban troops gradually from Angola on certain conditions.

This, in fact, is true. Pretoria has not yet responded in any detailed way to the Angola offer which, despite the rhetorical wrapping paper, seems not to rule out the possibility of a

parallel withdrawal of Cubans from Angola and South African troops from Namibia.

Unless there is movement on the Cubans, the South Africans say they cannot begin to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 435, which provides for a ceasefire in Namibia between Swapo and Pretoria, supervised by the UN, leading to elections to a constituent assembly and independence.

● LISBON: Unita rebels yesterday said they had captured a coastal town 190 miles south of Luanda and gave warning of intensified fighting unless the Government agreed to direct peace talks (Reuters reports).

A Unita communiqué, issued in Lisbon, said 5,000 guerrillas stormed Sumbe, the capital of Cuanza-Sul Province, during a six-hour battle on Sunday. More than 500 government troops, 62 Cubans, seven Russians, 12 Bulgarians and five Italian technicians were killed, with 65 Angolans, four Bulgarians and 10 Portuguese captured, the rebels claimed. Unita losses were given as 42 dead, 103 wounded and seven missing.

Coup leader sentenced to death

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

The second alleged ringleader of the attempted coup which was launched here on August 1, 1982, Air Force Sergeant Panaras Okumu, was yesterday sentenced to death by a court-martial.

He had pleaded not guilty to treason and in a statement claimed that he had joined the revolt after learning that the Kenyan minister for constitutional affairs, Mr Charles Njonjo, was involved in another coup plot timed to take place a few days later.

Earlier, Okumu had complained that he had been promised his freedom if he agreed to implicate Mr Njonjo in the coup plot. He said this offer was made to him by Kenyan representatives after he had been granted political asylum in Tanzania.

Okumu and private Hezekiah Ochiuka, who was sentenced to death last week, were said to be ringleaders of the attempted coup which was put down within a few hours by loyal troops. Both then fled to Tanzania by hijacking a military plane.

Nakasone trip helps to ease tensions

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

By the standards of China's diplomatic game, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, Japan's Prime Minister, appears to have scored valuable points both for neighbouring South Korea and for the principle of "mutual trust" between Japan and China during his first official visit to Peking which ended this week.

The longer-term diplomatic results could be a subtle easing of tension in the region, especially in relations with the troubled Korean peninsula. For the time being, the trip made clear that Japan's relations with China have never been better.

Chinese leaders proved much more amenable than expected to a request conveyed by Mr Nakasone from South Korea, which has no official ties to China, to allow Koreans in China to visit and be visited by relatives in the south.

The Chinese went so far as to say that Koreans living in China some 1.7 million of both northern and southern origins - should be able to meet relatives on visits not only in China and South Korea but even Tokyo. Seoul's news agency responded immediately by reporting that ten Koreans have already

signed up with the International Red Cross to go.

It is still anyone's guess as to whether this turn of events will have any future impact, however subtle, on humanitarian exchanges between the two Koreas. There was no sign of specific progress toward starting up of a dialogue between North and South Korea, but both countries agreed that war must be prevented from breaking out on the peninsula.

China further indicated that it would help communications between Japan and North Korea, which lack diplomatic ties. Japan does not intend to use China as a conduit on specific political or economic issues, but rather as a means of conveying precise intentions.

Japan's attitude to the North has been put under further strain by last year's Rangoon bombing, which killed several South Korean officials, and which North Korea is accused of perpetrating.

Mr Nakasone went to China bearing gifts, notably a promise of long-term economic aid which would total 470,000 yen over the next seven years and 50m yen for the relief of starving pandas.



Royalty and a royal breed: The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and King Hussein's sister, Princess Alia, admiring an Arab stallion in Amman.

Scholar's startling new theory

Did English start in India?

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

A South Indian student of language has come up with a novel theory about the origins of English. According to a paper presented at a conference in London, the English language sprang from a language spoken by over a million people living in the south-west of India in a region known as Dakshina Kannada. The language is Rulu, which long ago was widely spoken all over the Indian sub-continent before the Aryan invasions of the second millennium before Christ. According to the author, the English language, the Tuluas sailed from India sometime in

the seventh or eighth century BC and wandered through Asia and Europe until they ended up invading Britain as the Angles, bringing their unique language with them.

He draws his conclusions from a close comparison of the syntax, morphology and phonetics of the two languages. In a paper delivered last week to the first international conference on literature in translation held in Delhi he drew attention, for instance, to the English word "like", which may be used as an adjective, an adverb, a verb, noun or conjunction. It

has its equivalent in Tulu *leka* which has similar flexible uses. He also points out that among all the Indo-European languages only two, English and Tulu, use "W" in the same way.

A tongue-in-the-cheek comment from the Calcutta English language newspaper *The Statesman* says that while the theory is not likely to be taken too seriously in academic circles it adds a new dimension to the debate going on in Britain about linguistic permittiveness, by suggesting an exotic authority for arbitration.

UN report is first proof of breach in chemical war ban

From Zoriana Pysarivsky, New York

A United Nations report presented by an international team of military and medical experts on the use of mustard gas and nerve gas against Iranian targets in the Gulf war, marks the first formal substantiation of allegations that chemical weapons have been employed since the Geneva Protocol of 1925 went into effect.

Although there have been charges that similar weapons were used in Yemen in the 1960s and American allegations that the Soviet Union and Vietnam had resorted to mycotoxins known as "yellow rain" in Afghanistan and Indochina, the charges were never unreservedly confirmed.

Both the use of mustard and nerve gas are outlawed by the protocol which includes Iran and Iraq as its signatories.

The conclusion of the UN team, composed of four specialists from Australia, Spain, Switzerland and Sweden who each gathered and examined evidence pertaining to their fields of expertise, were unanimous.

They ruled that the military and clinical evidence confirmed that chemical weapons in the form of aerial bombs have been used in the areas of Iran the team inspected.

Their methods included interviews with Iranian Government officials, visits to the war zone, and clinical examinations of patients evacuated from the front. The specialists spent six days in Iran, but were refused entry to Iraq.

Their findings, issued without qualification, failed to name specifically the user of the weapons without the benefit of having actually witnessed an aerial attack. Their most dramatic piece of evidence was an unexploded bomb found in the war zone which contained a dark brown, oily liquid shown to contain mustard gas. Other

Why treaty fails

After negotiations in Geneva a convention banning the production, stockpiling and use of biological weapons was signed in 1972. But "gene" weapons have always been of doubtful effectiveness, Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent, writes.

The use of chemical weapons was prohibited by the Geneva Protocol of 1925, but not their production or stockpiling. Some signatories have continued to make them.

The present Geneva talks held by the Conference on Disarmament, have the objective of stopping production altogether, but verifying compliance remain an obstacle.

samples of liquid and soil were found to contain a nerve gas called tabun.

All three 300lb bombs examined had greenish casings marked "BR 250 WP" and timing fuses with instructions in Spanish. Of the 47 patients and 12 bodies, 38 cases were found to be part of a clinical pattern consistent with exposure to chemical weapons.

The specialists also reported that the area of the war zone surveyed appeared to be of a type that would normally be selected as a target for conventional attack. Bombs containing chemicals might be used in an attempt to clear the area, so that after a safe period it could be occupied by an attacking force.

Both the report and Iran's announcement that it would use chemical weapons as well as fuelled fears that the Gulf war has reached the stage where no moral prescriptions will prevent the use of any weapon necessary to attain a final victory.

But it was unlikely that the Security Council, where a majority tilt towards Iraq, would issue a condemnation.

Fatal blast intensifies NZ industrial tension

From W. R. Reeves, Wellington

A fatal blast in the trades hall in Wellington yesterday heightened an already tense industrial situation. One unidentified man was killed and another injured.

It is thought the explosion was caused by a bomb left in a suitcase in the foyer of the building, which accommodates the head offices of a number of national unions, though the police have not yet confirmed this.

The interior of the building was extensively damaged. No arrests have been made.

The union movement is involved in formulating its response to the Government's

decree last week of \$NZ8 (£4) a week pay rise, the first increase allowed in more than 19 months.

Sir Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister, says that is all the country can afford if the anti-inflationary gains achieved by the 18-month wages and prices freeze are not to be frittered away.

The unions, angry that wage control is to stay while prices are freed, want at least \$NZ17. They have been holding joint meetings and the Federation of Labour has undertaken to back their responses.

Mullahs at prayer killed by Afghan mosque bomb

From Our Own Correspondent, Delhi

The Soviet-supported regime of Mr Babrak Karmal is trying to make a propaganda coup out of the bombing of a mosque by mujahidin guerrillas in Kabul. The Soviet-built mosque was blasted at 6.20 pm on March 21 when a number of people were at prayer in the building. According to the Afghan Government four mullahs were killed and seven injured.

Western diplomats in Delhi yesterday said, however, that nine bodies were counted being taken out of the smoking ruins and that at least 11 people were seriously injured.

A statement put out by the government media said the incident was evidence of "the bestial and anti-Islamic nature of counter-revolutionary sold-out indolent thugs."

The Western view is that the

incident show that a major attack can be mounted in daylight in a sensitive area of the Afghan capital. The mosque is close to the Polytechnic Institute buildings in the north-west of the city. March 21 was the Afghan New Year festival of Navroz, and security had been stepped up.

The attack appears to have been a response to the international conference of Islamic scholars and clergy held by the regime during the previous week to boost its Islamic credentials. Although the delegates were invited from every Islamic country in the world, the only foreign representatives came from India. The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and the Soviet Central Asian republics.

Sino-Soviet deadlock played down by Moscow

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

The fourth round of Sino-Soviet "consultations" ended in Moscow yesterday, but against expectations Soviet comment was low key and gave no hint of progress.

Observers had expected Moscow to give some indication of the state of Sino-Soviet relations in view of President Reagan's planned visit to Peking next month.

"The Russians won't want the Americans to have it all their own way in Peking," one diplomat said, noting that the Kremlin is suspicious of the Chinese-American relationship and sharply criticised the visit to China last weekend by the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone.

A statement issued by Tass yesterday said Mr Qian Qichen, the Chinese deputy foreign

minister and his Soviet counterpart Mr Leonid Ilychov had continued the exchange of views on the normalization of Sino-Soviet relations. The talks had taken place in a frank and calm atmosphere and would resume in October in Peking.

Diplomatic sources said there had been no progress in the five meetings held since Mr Qian arrived in Moscow on March 12. There was still deadlock on the three main issues: Soviet backing for Vietnamese domination of Kampuchea; the presence of Soviet troops on the Chinese border and the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

Moscow however noted yesterday that the Vietnamese press had described tensions between Vietnam and China as abnormal.

Witness who was admired and hated

Controversial honour for Hiss case man

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

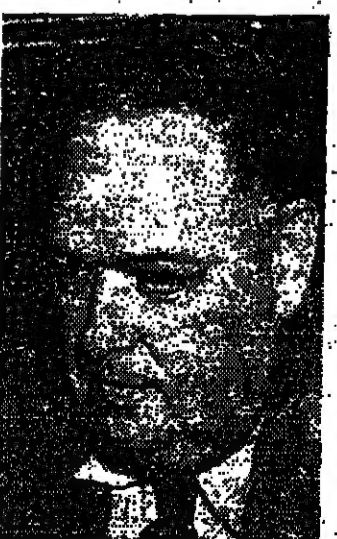
Few figures in post-war America have aroused such conflicting passions as Whittaker Chambers, the traitor-turned-patriot who was posthumously awarded the US Medal of Freedom by President Reagan on Monday.

To liberals and those on the left of the political spectrum the man who incited Alger Hiss - and indirectly helped launch the political rise of Richard Nixon - is still regarded with a mixture of loathing and contempt.

Right-wingers, on the other hand, consider him a modern American hero, a man who halted the spread of communist ideology in American intellectual society and who restored the nation's faith in God and freedom.

That President Reagan should have decided to present America's highest civilian honour to such a controversial figure says much about his own personality and the nature of his Administration.

President Reagan read Chambers' exonerating memoir *Witness* three decades ago, at a time when he was beginning his own political metamorphosis from liberal Democrat to conservative



Whittaker Chambers: Tribute from President Reagan.

Republican. According to the White House, the President still admires Chambers for "seeing the light in coming from communism to freedom" - so much so, in fact, that he has been invoking Chambers' name and example in recent speeches.

Indeed Chambers' influence is detectable in much that Mr Reagan says or does, whether it is describing the Soviet Union

as "an evil empire" or supporting (unsuccessfully as it turned out) a constitutional amendment authorizing organized prayer in public schools.

Chambers joined the Communist Party in 1925, quickly rose through the ranks and eventually ended up in the Soviet Union where he underwent training as a spy. He returned to the US and set up a group in Washington which pilfered government secrets and passed them on to Moscow.

However by 1937 he had become disillusioned by Stalin's repressive leadership and, fearing assassination, lived for a year in hiding. He was, later taken on by *Time* magazine where as *Foreign Editor* he became known for his virulent anti-communist views.

It was not until almost a decade later that he became a national celebrity after being subpoenaed to appear before the House un-American activities committee. Chambers caused a sensation by telling the committee that among his accomplices in his spy cell was Alger Hiss, a former high-flyer in the State Department who had participated in the Yalta summit conference.

The prolonged battle between Chambers and Hiss which ensued turned into a classic

confrontation of style and ideology. Mr Hiss was tall, elegant, well-spoken, well connected and a firm advocate of the New Deal policies which were being threatened by the anti-communist fervour then prevailing in Congress. Mr Chambers was a short, pudgy, rumpled figure who expounded his anti-communist views with almost messianic zeal.

Mr Hiss denied before the House committee that he had had any relationship with Chambers. He was charged with perjury and was found guilty after two trials and Chambers' presentation of the so-called "Pumpkin papers" (five rolls of film he had hidden in a pumpkin. He went to prison from which he emerged in 1954 still protesting his innocence).

William Rusher, publisher of the *National Review*, said the award of the Medal of Freedom to Chambers was highly appropriate.

However Victor Navasky, editor of the left-leaning *The Nation* commented that it was disturbing that such an important award should have been given to a man who "lied on any number of occasions and had a paranoid view of the world. He could not distinguish fact from fantasy."

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Caroline Moorehead talks to Mary Wesley, novelist and recluse

A secretive 70-year-old shocker

To produce a justly admired, big-selling first novel at 70 is a feat greatly to be envied, particularly when it is inspired by need and surrounded by extreme modesty. Mary Wesley, whose second novel, *The Canonile Lawn*, appears tomorrow, is as unsure and tentative about her new work as she is about all things; but by now the writing has become life, that dimension always lacking from her existence and now so pleasurable. "What is lovely," she says, "is that I'm too old to have love affairs and I really enjoy working. I simply missed out on 30 years of it."

The long period before productivity was not quite as empty as she makes it sound, nor really of her own doing. She did, in fact, start writing in her thirties, "but for myself, tearing everything up. It never occurred to me to publish anything". It wasn't until Antonia White caught her in the act of throwing away a manuscript that she took the whole business more seriously, and even then the two children's books she embarked on were really written to read aloud to her husband Eric in the evening, as he was by then very ill with Parkinson's disease.

"When he died, in 1970, I had a total block. It was despair. I was paralysed by having no qualifications and no money." Her youngest son was 16 and still at Dartmouth. "I had £50 a week to live on. I had to calculate everything. I worked sometimes for friends with an antique shop. I taught A-level French until the school discovered I wasn't trained. I made sweaters for friends who knew how to knit. I was a bit of a flogger with little silver and jewelry I had left. Even the perfect cottage on the edge of Dartmoor, her home for 18 years, with a stream running through the garden and three acres of woods and grass had to go, not least because the car had finally fallen to pieces and she needed a new one. She sold it while lying in bed with double pneumonia, as would-be buyers traipsed through the house peering nervously at what they assumed to be a dying seller.

The break in block and fortune came together. She had been tinkering with a third children's book called *Haphazard House* (now

up for the Carnegie Prize), and with what became *Jumping the Queue*, the touching and distinctly autobiographical first novel about a widow in her fifties, in love with animals and her garden, but bent on suicide. It is both funny and sexy. The confirmation that both had found publishers came the same day. She had no money for the trip to London, but it was sent to her and "despair, overnight, became euphoria".

The extreme lack of money had been very real, but it had not always been that way. Mary Wesley was the second daughter of a soldier, and spent her childhood in France or Italy whenever the colonel got a posting to a place where the family could not go. She was nine and in Portofino when Mussolini held the first Fascist elections and no one in the village, by agreement, would vote. Mary gathered orchids and became a keen child gardener. When a friend complained that the girls were picking up regional accents, they moved to Siena, to the heart of pure-spoken Italian. There were 10 governesses in eight years.

When Mary was 14, her mother decided the moment had come to take her older daughter to join her father in India. The only son was safely at Eton. Mary was placed in a small school in St Leonards, and later for two terms in a London girls' public school. She was unhappy and learnt little. Then came a finishing school in Paris. "I came back to London to do the season. After a few weeks of parties my mother said to me: 'Mary, how old are you?' Sixteen, I replied. 'My God,' she said. 'You're much too young.' So it was off to a domestic science school for six months, before coming out at Court.

Now followed years of enforced pleasure, the colonel being no more a believer in working women than he had been in their education. "So I did what girls like me did - nothing at all, I was told to have a good time, and I certainly did." When young men marvelled that she had never read Shaw or H. G. Wells she joined classes in international politics at the London School of Economics and listened to Czechs and Poles displaced by the Treaty of Versailles arguing bitterly, "in a permanent, scolding state of rage".



Mary Wesley: "I have trained people not to drop in."

Not long before war broke out she became engaged to an Irish peer, Baron Swinfen. The marriage did not long survive the war, but by then she had two sons and had met the man who was to become her second husband, a journalist called Eric Siepmann, with whom she was, by contrast, exceedingly happy. From France, where he was stationed at the end of the war he sent her Aragon's poems to translate. Siepmann was not as successful a writer as he should have been, but the family moved often, with Mary Wesley attempting to send back articles for publication in reluctant British newspapers.

When the Dartmoor cottage was sold, she moved in to a very tall, solid, stone house in the middle of Tintown, with the castle behind and the Midland Bank in front. It is light, full of books and "nice china

and cosy; but there is no garden and no animal. "I just can't see myself training a new puppy in my nightdress in the middle of the night in the streets of Tintown." Mary Wesley is a neat, handsome woman with a square face and heavy white hair; her manner is both purposeful and shy, hesitant and firm. She dismisses her past and her family with a kind of affectionate contempt. "I have become totally secretive," she says. "I live a hermit's existence. I have trained people not to drop in and not to telephone." Why, I asked her, is the name on her books Wesley? "Ah," she said, with enjoyment, "that is a pseudonym. I know people would be shocked by *Jumping the Queue*. They'll be a great deal more shocked by *The Canonile Lawn*. When you reach my age you must be able to say what you like."

Child myth number 279: those who sleep badly are dynamic and creative and destined to become top nuclear physicists, concert pianists and cabinet ministers of their day, while those who sleep well can expect little more than a steady livelihood as a filing clerk in a minor insurance company.

It is such a popular myth that at times it threatens to harden into a cliché, but never quite makes the transition since clichés are three-quarters truth and myths three-quarters fiction. No doubt the person who first made this equation between insomnia and high achievement had the purest motives of charity or desperation. The trouble is that we have all taken him (or her) too literally and feel we are the victims of some genetic rip-off when the little wakeholic matures into dunce.

Most parents I know have at some time or other had chronically broken nights and lain awake like passengers on the slow train to dawn. If all these families believed they were harbouring the next Einstein, John Ogden or Geoffrey Howe, there would certainly be some very rude awakenings in the pipeline.

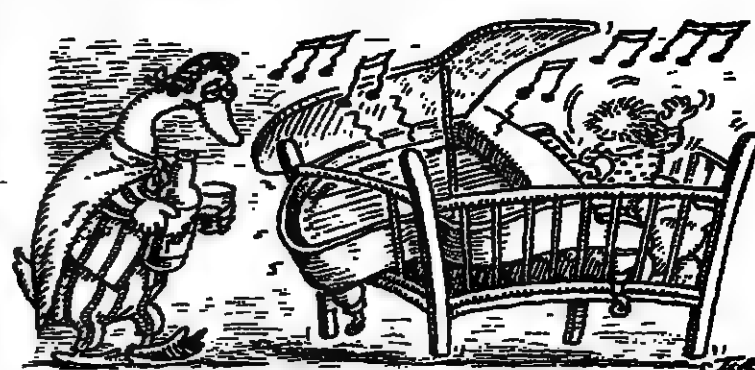
I am happy to report that my horrible lawyer friend, Parris Maitland, is having broken nights, thanks to his four-year-old son. Whenever he goes into the child's bedroom to remonstrate, still bleary with port, the boy is ready with a cogent defence for the motion that he is not in fact, two in the morning but four in the afternoon and time for Playschool. No doubts about his future; it has to be the bar.

Just a codicil on that latest and most disastrous visit by Great Aunt Sylvia from Beckenham. Leaving back to my entry on the subject, I sense contrition on my part, just because a child's expletive went undeleted. Given that I deplore the Great Aunt's values, and she mine, this is an absurd waste of remorse. True, her face looked as though it had just swallowed a year's supply of unhappiness; true, her huff arrived and she went off in a destination: High Dudgeon. But in the seven short days (a long time in politics) which have since passed, I have suddenly grasped what I should have grasped years ago, namely, that I don't care. I just don't care.

She came here, as she always does, bent on sinister discoveries about The New Childhood, and we have satisfied her. These she can now relay on her tissue-thin blue airmail

ALAN FRANKS' DIARY

To sleep, perchance to split the atom



leaves to the most distant limbs of the family. All small children exist to incur the displeasure of someone who is irrelevant to them, and so I should delight in filling an old heart with happiness. More than this, I should thank the ancient relative for the sense of liberation which I now feel, but somehow I know that my largesse would only be misunderstood. Instead, I shall just wait for her next self-invitation, which will not be long in coming.

A family has just moved into River Street. I don't know their names, but think of them as the sub-Sloanes. They all have green wellingtons which never get muddy and own an Old English Sheepdog called Targuin, who is a parody of the species. The father strides into the park with a shooting stick and pristine deerstalker. The rumour is that, far from being something in the City, as you must in order to be a fully paid-up Sloane, he is a bit-part actor who did quite well out of Crown Court and General Hospital.

It is their clear intention to raise the tone of the neighbourhood; no sooner had they arrived than the small terraced house sprouted brass carriage lamps and a bay window panes like the base of a wine bottle. It all looks disgustingly bogus to me, not to mention anti-social, so determined are they to distance themselves from the style of their chosen road. As always in these matters, it is the children who speak tact volumes. There is a boy of seven at my daughter's school who has let it be known that he will not be honouring the borough with his presence at the secondary education stage. Instead, he is being sent away to Daddy's old school, which I gather is some frightful jail of a place in deepest Dorset. His elder brother is already there and having what adults would probably refer to as a nervous breakdown. It occurs to me,

uncharitably I know, that the sub-Sloanes could raise the tone of the place still further if they exiled themselves, as well as their children, on a permanent basis.

But to younger matters: Beatrix Potter is a good deal older than Great Aunt Sylvia ever will be, yet her humanized animals - or are they animalized humans? - grow fresher by the generation. *Jemima* is no mere duck who ploshed about the lanes of Far Sawrey. In the days before the motor car, she is a universal type and we can find her gawled into all manner of frames and characters today.

For example, there is a very old woman in Orchard Road who really does seem to waddle and quack, and so my children have christened her *Jemima*. As she came towards us this morning on our way to school, my daughter was planning to hail her by this name. I tried to dissuade her by asking her how she would like it if a stranger came up to her and said "Hello Mrs Tittlemouse". But she just hooted with laughter and said it would be great fun. So much for the rational approach. Anyway, as we came within a couple of yards of her, the old woman looked down, exclaimed "Hello Duckie!", and waddled on, leaving my daughter silent all the way to the school gate. A record.

I am not the only one to find contemporary relevance in the pages of Beatrix Potter. A friend suggests to me that Tabitha Titchett is Mrs Thatcher to the life, and I hurry back to the text. Well, yes, there is a Titchett bearing Tom Kitten and his grubby playmates for coming unscrubbed to the tea table, and declaiming, with all the peak of a thwarted Euro-statesman, the words: "I am affronted!" Unfortunately this is not a political diary, but there is a thesis here, to be sure.

THE TIMES COOK



Shona Crawford Poole

It is a myth that summer is the best time for salads. True, there are home-produced tomatoes and lettuce grown in real earth that, weather willing, will have soaked up a few real sunbeams too. And the most exciting tastes in herbs are summer ones, although some of the excitement may be on account of their seasonal scarcity.

By summer the whole endive family, from pale spears of chicory through ruby radicchio, to bright green frizzy, will have disappeared from greengrocers' counters and market stalls. Corn salad or lamb's lettuce, another winter treat, is nowhere

Salad days all the year round

to be seen. The fennel bulbs and fat red peppers imported from other people's summers are always hardest to come by when ours is at its height and an appetite for salad is universal. Some of the best winter and year-round salads are first courses which can stand frequent repetition.

Italian grocer shops and delicatessens are the likeliest sources of fresh mozzarella cheese. The finest is said to be made in southern Italy from the milk of water buffalo, but the kind available here is invariably made from cows' milk. It has a smooth, bouncy texture which stops short of rubbery, and a clean, slightly sour taste. Mozzarella's special quality is to melt creamily on top of pizza. Uncooked, and served with sliced tomatoes, it is a marvelously fresh-tasting prelude to simply cooked pasta, or grilled meat or fish.

Mozzarella and tomato salad
Serves two to three
3 ripe tomatoes
1 small, ripe avocado
170g (6oz) mozzarella
For the dressing
4 tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon wine vinegar
½ teaspoon dry mustard
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 clove garlic, finely chopped (optional)

Dip the tomatoes briefly in boiling water to loosen the skins and peel them. Cut them in thick slices.
Cut the avocado in halves and remove the stone and skin. Slice the flesh thickly.
Cut the mozzarella in slices of a thickness compatible with the tomatoes and avocado.
Arrange the sliced fruit and cheese attractively on individual plates. Combine the dressing ingredients and shake them well together. Tinkle the dressing generously over the salad and serve it with plenty of hot, crusty french bread.
To vary this salad omit the avocado and sprinkle the cheese and tomatoes with a few slivers of salted anchovy, with small, pungent black olives or with capers. Fresh herbs, especially



basil, but also coriander are good, too.
The same thick, mustardy vinaigrette dressing used in the last recipe unites warm potatoes and crunchy green-stuffs in a satisfyingly earthy salad. Alternatively, this simple combination of ingredients may be garnished with crisp chunks of smoked bacon, and the rendered bacon fat used to make a hot dressing. Chopped, hard-boiled egg is an additional garnish for either version.

Warm potato salad
Serves four
450g (1lb) small new potatoes
1 clove garlic, peeled
½ head curly or frizzy endive, or a small iceberg lettuce
For the dressing
110g (4oz) smoked streaky bacon, cubed
2 tablespoons wine vinegar
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Scrub the potatoes and boil or steam them in their skins until they are tender.
Rub a large bowl with a cut clove of garlic and add the drained potatoes to it. Keep warm.
Put the chopped bacon in a cold pan and heat slowly, increasing the heat as the fat begins to melt. Cook until the bacon is crisp, then remove it with a slotted spoon and add it to the potatoes. Add the leaves to the salad bowl.
Stir the vinegar into the hot bacon fat and season the dressing with salt (if needed) and plenty of black pepper. Pour the dressing over the salad and turn the greenstuff and potatoes in the dressing to coat them well.
Serve the salad immediately on warm plates.
Leeks vinaigrette may be

served lukewarm or cold. For this dish the smallest leeks widely available now are particularly suitable.
Leeks vinaigrette
Serves four
680g (1½lbs) young leeks
For the dressing
2 hard-boiled egg yolks
½ teaspoon mustard
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
2 tablespoons wine vinegar
120ml (4fl oz) olive oil

Trim the roots and coarse outer leaves from the leeks so that the prepared vegetables are approximately equal in length and thickness. Slice each leek lengthwise to within a handspan of its base and wash.
Tie the leeks into three or four bundles - tape is better than string for the binding - and cook them for about 15 minutes or until tender, in boiling salted water. Drain. Loosen the bundles and drain the leeks well before arranging them on plates.
Mix the crumbled egg yolks, mustard, salt, pepper and vinegar to a smooth paste then gradually mix in the oil to make a thick dressing. Check the seasoning and spoon the dressing over the leeks.
Really fresh mushrooms which are tightly shut have a crisp texture that has underexploited salad potential. Wipe the mushrooms clean and trim the stalks level with the caps before slicing them quite thinly.
Serve the slices with two dressings. Salted cream fraiche or soured cream, or fresh cream and yogurt mixed is one dressing. The second should be a vinaigrette made with fresh lemon juice. A little walnut oil, mixed with an almost tasteless oil like peanut or sunflower oil, is particularly good.

Under the shadow of a bully

FIRST PERSON

Lynn Peters

"I hate school," Gemma spoke with such vehemence that we all looked up in surprise. We were in the middle of Christmas dinner and school had been far from the minds of everyone else. "I thought it looked a lovely school," said her grandmother gently. "Why don't you like it?" But Gemma was not to be drawn. "I hate it," was all she would say.

Of course it is not unusual for a child of four and a half to dislike school, but the odd thing in Gemma's case was that she had always loved it and looked forward to it with an eagerness unequalled by almost any other activity. If she was unwell - I would say it was a school holiday, otherwise she would cry at being unable to go. The transition from playgroup to nursery school, and nursery to infants' school was accomplished without any kind of trauma, but during her first term at infants we moved away from the area and within a week of starting at her new school she had developed a fear and dislike of it that we could not have imagined previously. In the mornings she would become quiet and withdrawn as we approached the school and when it was time for me to leave she would cling to my legs and cry in what seemed like terror.

Each afternoon I took to checking with the teacher on Gemma's progress for that day. She did not seem greatly happier during the rest of the day than at the start of it, but reasons for her unhappiness were mostly agreed on what we were mostly agreed on what we were: she had changed schools mid-term when other children had already settled and formed friendships; she had come from a school of only 150 infants to a primary twice that size and at which she was the youngest; she had lost contact with old friends and familiar surroundings; and she had recently had a small operation which we had been warned could leave her feeling depressed. So we consoled ourselves with the thought that Gemma's reaction was largely explicable.

But she did not settle down. Christmas came and went and it went on hope that the new term would bring an improvement. If anything she was becoming more distressed. I decided that if between us we could find no answer to Gemma's problems then I should have to consider taking her away.

It was several days before I could see the teachers and in the meantime Gemma mentioned that she had cried at dinner time and had been moved to a different seat. "Why did the dinner lady move you?" I asked, puzzled. "Ricky kept upsetting me," she said. She rarely mentioned children by name but I remembered hearing of Ricky before and as I pondered, various other unrelated incidents came to mind. "Don't you like Ricky?" I probed. "I hate him," she replied and after some persuasion added sorrowfully, "He calls me pudding face."

I knew that Ricky was not in her class so I wondered how she had come into contact with him. "He's on my table at dinner," she explained. I had not realized that the children had their seats allocated at meal times: always the same seat at the same table, so here was a perfect opportunity for an older child to intimidate a younger in a relatively unsupervised situation.

As an experiment I asked for Gemma to be moved to a different table. And the child I met at the school gates that afternoon was a changed personality. She was cheerful, excited to tell me the day's happenings, and for the first time began to talk with enthusiasm of the other children she knew. The following morning she cried briefly, the next day not at all. She let go of my hand voluntarily and was gone without a glance.

During this period I met with Gemma's teachers and I was reassured to discover that the staff were as concerned as I was to help Gemma settle down and intended to monitor the situation. Thankfully, I am now once again the mother of a well-adjusted and cheerful schoolchild but it was sheer chance that the solution came to light when it did and I wonder how long the problem might otherwise have persisted.

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Bridge v Deacons

Before Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Wilberforce, Lord Scarman, Lord Roskill and Lord Templeman. [Judgment delivered March 26]

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council held that a covenant in a solicitors' partnership agreement whereby a partner who ceased to be a partner was restricted for five years thereafter from acting as a solicitor in Hongkong for any client of the firm at the time he ceased to be a partner or during the preceding three years, was enforceable against him, and it was not unreasonable as being in unreasonable restraint of trade.

Their Lordships disagreed with observations made by Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, in *Oswald Hickson Collier & Co v Carter-Ruck* (unreported) in the Court of Appeal on January 20, 1982.

Their Lordships dismissed an appeal by the defendant from the judgment of Mr Justice Hunter who had granted the plaintiff firm, Deacons, an interlocutory injunction restraining the defendant from acting contrary to the provisions of the covenant.

Sir Patrick Neill, QC and Mr Paul Andrew Smith for the defendant; Mr Leonard Hoffmann, QC and Mr Richard McCombe for the plaintiff firm.

LORD FRASER said that the question was whether a restrictive covenant in a partnership agreement between partners in a firm of solicitors was enforceable against one of their number who had ceased to be a partner, or whether it was unenforceable as being in unreasonable restraint of trade.

It was well established law that covenants in restraint of trade were unenforceable unless they could be shown to be reasonable in the interests of the parties, affording no more than adequate protection, and in the public interest.

It had come to be accepted that certain types of contract which imposed a measure of interference with the freedom of trade were treated as not being within the field of restraint of trade, provided that the degree of interference did not exceed the accepted standard.

One such type was the type of contract where a man sold his business with its goodwill and accepted a limitation on his right to compete. The justification for that limitation was that it enhanced the price which the vendor could obtain for his business.

Even in contracts of that type it was necessary to consider whether the restrictions on the vendor of the goodwill were fair and properly ancillary to the sale, and if they exceeded that limit the doctrine of restraint of trade might be applied.

The other type of contract was that in which restrictions were imposed on former employees. Only

in such cases much more limited restrictions were normally enforceable, and if their effect would merely be to protect the employer from competition from his former employee they would be invalid unless the circumstances were unusual.

The agreement in the present case, being one between partners, did not conform exactly to either of those types, although it had some resemblance to both. A decision on whether the restrictions in this agreement were enforceable or not could not be reached by attempting to place the agreement in any particular category, or by seeking for the category to which it was most closely analogous.

The proper approach was that adopted by Lord Reid in *Esso Petroleum Co Ltd v Harper's Garage (Stourport) Ltd* ([1968] AC 269, 301), to ascertain what were the legitimate interests of the plaintiff firm which it was entitled to protect, and whether the restraints were more than adequate for that purpose. What were the plaintiff's legitimate interests would depend largely on the nature of the business, and on the position of the defendant in the firm.

The plaintiff was one of the oldest and largest firms of solicitors in Hongkong. At the time these proceedings began it had 27 partners and employed 49 assistant solicitors.

The defendant began his connection with the firm in 1967 when he entered its employment as an assistant solicitor. He had not previously practised as a solicitor in Hongkong. He became a salaried partner in July 1973, and was admitted a full capital partner on April 1, 1974, when he was aged about 31.

He worked generally for several partners, but fairly soon he began working for one partner, Mr Turnbull, and he developed a growing interest in intellectual and industrial property law and in the law relating to trade marks.

That was an area of the firm's practice which had been growing during the 1960s. The growth continued during the 1970s partly because industrial design copyright became actionable in Hongkong in 1973.

The defendant's invitation to join the firm as a salaried partner was given in expectation, which was fulfilled, that Mr Turnbull would the following year become a senior partner and the defendant would then become the partner responsible for that part of the practice.

An important feature of the case was that the firm was divided into a number of departments, largely separate from each other. The division had occurred as a result of the great expansion in the practice over about the past 20 years.

The division was emphasized by the fact that each file was specifically assigned to the partner who remained ultimately responsible for it.

Consequently, each partner's knowledge of the firm's business tended to be concentrated on his own department.

The industrial property department was moved in about July 1981 to a separate suite of offices on a different floor. The defendant was thus physically, to some extent, cut off from the other departments. The evidence was that he had only acted for those clients of the firm who made use of the intellectual and industrial property department.

In 1981 the total delivered bills of the firm were approximately HK\$132,000,000 of which only about 4.5 per cent was attributable to that department. About 10 per cent of the total number of files was marked as being the responsibility of the defendant.

Thus he had no connexion or dealings with over 90 per cent of the firm's clients, and as he claimed, he had no advantage over any other solicitor in seeking to attract their business.

In those circumstances it was contended on behalf of the defendant that the plaintiff was not entitled to protection against him acting for clients of the firm for whom he had never acted while he was a partner, and that the plaintiff was only entitled to protect such part of its goodwill as would be threatened by him if he were to set up practice on his own account, and that part consisted only of the business which he was advantageously placed to attract because it came from clients for whom he had acted and to whom he was known.

Their Lordships did not accept that submission. The partners in the firm, as constituted from time to time, were the owners of the firm's whole assets, including its most valuable asset: goodwill.

The defendant had owned a share of the assets while he was a partner, but he transferred his share to the continuing partners when he ceased to be a partner.

The question was whether it was reasonable, as between the parties, for the plaintiff to obtain protection against appropriation by the defendant of any part of the goodwill, notwithstanding the "departmentalization" of the practice.

It was reasonable provided that the protection did not extend beyond the plaintiff's practice, and that had not been suggested.

The mutualty of the contract was a most important consideration. The contract applied equally to all the partners. None of them could tell whether he might find himself in a position of being a retiring partner subject to the restriction, or a continuing partner with an interest to enforce the restriction.

It was suggested on behalf of the defendant that a restriction which would have been reasonable between the parties would have been one restricting a retiring partner from acting for clients for whom he had personally acted or for

whose work he was generally responsible for, for instance, files having been opened bearing reference to his name.

But a restriction on those lines might well be difficult to apply, particularly in the case of a client who had sought advice from several partners at different times on a variety of matters.

Moreover it might work unfairly in the case of a partner who had acted only for a small number of clients, perhaps very large clients whose business took up practically his whole time, as compared with another partner with a large number of relatively small clients.

The fundamental error in that part of the argument for the defendant was that it overlooked the fact that the firm had one single practice in which each of the partners had an interest.

They shared in the profits and losses of the partnership, and each stood to benefit to some extent from the success of each of the others in attracting clients. It might be possible that a partnership could exist in which the partners' interests were so separated as to make an agreement such as that in the present case unreasonable, but this was not such a case.

The restriction included persons who had been clients within the previous three years. That was perfectly reasonable having regard to the intermittent nature of a solicitor's employment by any particular client. There must be many regular clients of a solicitor's firm who did not have occasion to employ that firm even as often as once every three years.

The five years' limitation was also in no way unreasonable. There appeared to be no reported case where a restriction which was otherwise reasonable had been held to be unreasonable solely because of its duration.

Some weight should be given to the fact that the restriction was found in a partnership agreement which had evidently been carefully drafted and which must be taken to represent the views of experienced solicitors who would be well aware that an unduly severe restriction would be unenforceable.

One further argument against the reasonableness of the restriction, as between the parties, turned on the alleged inadequacy of the consideration provided for in the agreement.

The amount paid to a retiring partner in respect of goodwill was merely nominal and was in no way related to its real value having regard to the large profits earned by the firm. It might well be that the defendant's share of the goodwill was not sold for its market value in cash, but that was immaterial. It passed to the continuing partners not by a sale for a cash consideration in 1983, but as part of the contract made in 1974.

The adequacy of the consideration and the reasonableness of the contract as between the parties had to be judged in 1974. At that date

the defendant received 5 per cent share in the partnership business, and all its assets, including goodwill.

In return he agreed to various conditions, one of which was that he would transfer his share in the business, including goodwill, to the continuing partners when he retired, and would thereafter not compete with them.

The value placed upon goodwill in 1974 and in 1984 might have been only nominal but there were good reasons for treating it in that way. One reason was to avoid the need to value it on each occasion, and thus to avoid much trouble and expense.

Another reason was that when a new capital partner joined a large firm he was not normally in a position to pay the full market value of his share of the goodwill, and the only practicable system was to charge him a nominal sum. It was therefore reasonable that when a partner retired, he should receive only a nominal sum for his share of the business.

Accordingly the restriction was not unreasonable between the parties by reason of the consideration paid to the defendant having been inadequate.

On the question of reasonableness in the public interest, there was a clear public interest in facilitating the establishment by established solicitors' firms of younger men as partners. It benefited clients by tending to secure continuity in the practice. It also tended to encourage the entry of younger men into the profession.

Their Lordships accepted the evidence that the continuing partners in the plaintiff firm would have felt able to take on new capital partners only if they knew that in doing so they would not run the risk that the new partners would acquire a connection with clients of the firm and then depart with that part of the firm's goodwill.

Conversely the new capital partners in the firm were required to purchase their share of its goodwill, but they could not reasonably be expected to do that if a retiring partner could, freely remove part of the goodwill. Accordingly the restriction was reasonable in the public interest.

In *Oswald Hickson Collier & Co v Carter-Ruck* (unreported) decided in the (English) Court of Appeal on January 20, 1982, according to the transcript, Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, referring to a provision in a solicitors' partnership agreement that a retiring partner should not act for any clients of the firm said:

"I cannot see that it would be proper for a clause to be inserted in a partnership deed preventing one of the partners from acting for a client in the future. It is contrary to public policy because there is a fiduciary relationship between them."

The client ought reasonably to be entitled to the services of such solicitor as he wishes. That solicitor no doubt has a great deal of

confidential information available to him. It would be contrary to public policy if the solicitor were prevented from acting for him by a clause of this kind."

Lord Justice Kerr and Lord Justice May agreed with him. If those dicta were intended to state a general rule, their Lordships must respectfully but emphatically decline to agree with it. It was unsupported by authority, and appeared to have been made without any reference to the fact that it was directly contrary to a considerable volume of authority, including a decision of the House of Lords in *Fitch v Deaves* ([1921] 2 AC 158).

It was also unjustified in principle. For one thing a solicitor was always excepted to some extent in legal aid cases) entitled to refuse to act for a particular person, and it was difficult to see any reason why he should not be entitled to bind himself by contract not to act in future for a particular group of persons.

For another thing, the relationship of solicitor and client was not unique in being confidential. The relationships of medical men with their patients and of many other professional men with their clients were also confidential.

If there were a general rule that they could not bind themselves not to act for former clients of the firm after they had retired from a partnership, the results would be very far reaching. It had to be remembered that the clients were clients of the firm, rather than of an individual partner.

Those and other objections to treating the dicta in the *Carter-Ruck* case as being of general application were pointed out by Mr Justice Walton in *Edwards v Worsleys* (unreported) on March 18, 1983, and in that case in the Court of Appeal on March 25, 1983, Lord Justice Dillon and Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, both treated the *dicta dicta* in the *Carter-Ruck* case as not being of general application. Their Lordships agreed with that view.

Their Lordships recommended that the appeal should be dismissed with costs.

Solicitors: Herbert Smith & Co; Lovell, White & King.

No costs for appellant

Lay Sik-Chun v The Queen

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council would not award a successful appellant in a criminal matter before the Board costs against the prosecution save in exceptional circumstances.

The Judicial Committee (Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Wilberforce, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Scarman and Lord Bridge of Harwich) on March 26, gave reasons for advising that an appeal from the Court of Appeal of Hongkong, which had affirmed the

Proof of unlicensed use not necessary

D (a Minor) v Yates

Before Lord Justice Kerr and Mr Justice McNeill. [Judgment delivered March 26]

The offence of using an apparatus for wireless telegraphy without a licence, contrary to section 1(1) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949, was committed where the set was available for use at any time and it was unnecessary to prove that the set had been used or that the defendant intended to use it.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held and dismissed the defendant's appeal from the dismissal by Manchester Crown Court (Judge Kershaw and a Justice) of her appeal against conviction of an offence that between November 13, 1982, and November 20, 1982, the defendant did use a Superstar 360 FM CB transceiver without a licence, contrary to section 1(1).

Mr Christopher Pearson for the defendant; Mr Anthony Morris for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE KERR said that section 1(1) was also applicable to television licences.

The crown court, having considered the evidence, was not sure that the defendant had operated the set between November 13 and 20

but was sure that during that period she kept the set readily available for operation and intended to use it if the occasion arose.

The sole issue was whether to establish an offence under the section of having used an apparatus, it was necessary for the prosecution to establish that the set was switched on and transmitting and receiving during those dates.

The crown court concluded that that was not the proper meaning of "use" in that section, and that it would be virtually impossible to obtain a conviction if the operator had to be apprehended at the time the set was switched on.

Even without reference to the defendant's state of mind, that is, her intention to use the set in the future, the offence had been established by the fact that the set was available for immediate use at any time.

The word "use" should be given a broad and sensible interpretation of being available for use. It was going too far to require proof that the set was being used at the time.

Mr Justice McNeill agreed.

Solicitors: J. S. Sierant & Co; Chorley, March Pearson & Skelton, Manchester.

Explosives UK limit

Regina v Berry

Before Lord Justice Dunn, Mr Justice Stocker and Mr Justice Jupp. [Judgment delivered March 26]

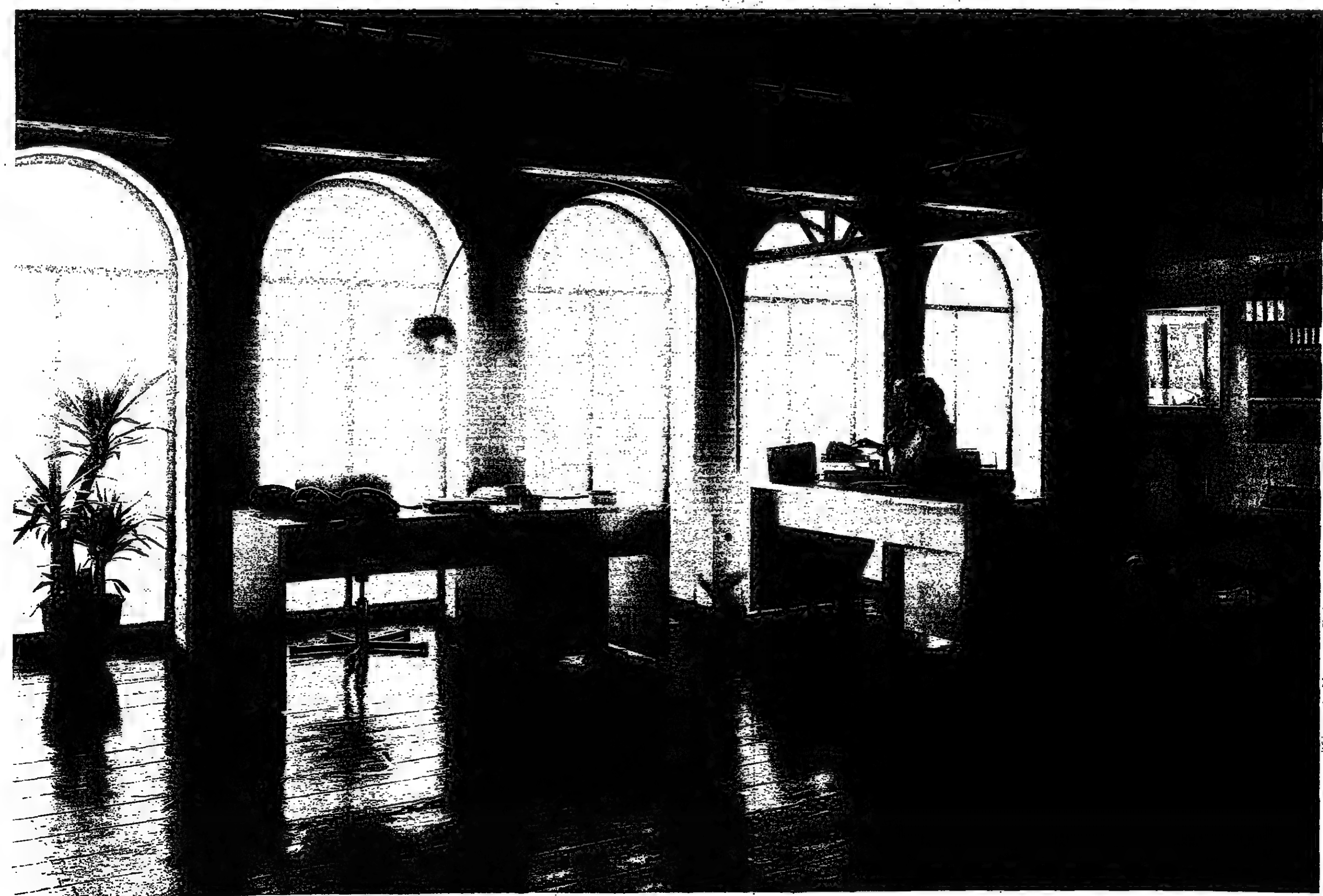
The offence under section 4 of the Explosive Substances Act 1883 did not prohibit the manufacture here of explosive substances to be used for an unlawful object outside the United Kingdom.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by John Rodney Francis Berry and quashed his conviction on May 24, 1983 in Chelmsford Crown Court (Judge Greenwood) of making explosive substances in suspicious circumstances, contrary to section 4 of the 1883 Act, for which he had been sentenced to eight years' imprisonment.

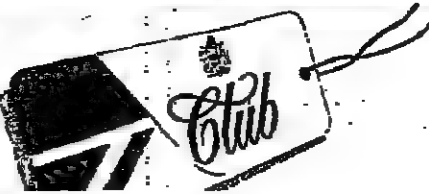
LORD JUSTICE DUNN, giving the judgment of the court, said that the trial judge had fallen into error in directing the jury to consider the purpose for which the timers were to be used abroad, in particular in saying that it mattered not where the explosions were going to take place, whether in this country or elsewhere.

Their Lordships were of opinion that there were statutory provisions which would effectively prohibit the manufacture of explosives in this country for use abroad, but section 4 of the 1883 Act was not one of them. It might be that the section should be looked at in the proper place, but that was not a matter for their Lordships.

Solicitors: Director of Public Prosecutions.



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DIARY

Old Mark's
good home

The Courtauld Institute was yesterday accused of currying favour with the Government by lending Mrs Thatcher nine of its works to hang in her Chequers home. The disclosure of the two-year loan, confirmed yesterday by No 10, comes only weeks after the Government announced a £50,000 donation towards the institute's £3m move to Somerset House. The claim was made by Courtauld students who resent being denied access to the paintings, which were handpicked for Mrs Thatcher by Sir Geoffrey Agnew, chairman of Agnew's, the London art dealers, and Lord Campbell of Eskan. They include works by Picasso, Alan Ramsay, Henry Raeburn, Winifred Nicholson and Bloomsbury set members Roger Fry and Vanessa Bell.

Yesterday Dr Dennis Farr, director of the Courtauld, denied his students' accusation. Chequers seemed a "good home" for the pictures because only 40 per cent of works can be hung until the move. Meanwhile Mrs Thatcher, who was at pains to show off the Wellington and Nelson portraits in Downing Street to the United States Falklands negotiator, Alexander Haig, should take even greater pleasure showing off her Picasso. Its title: "Old Mark's Field."

© The Royal Society of Health is to stage a conference called "Contra-contrasting Today" in Baden-Powell House, the scouting movement's HQ, on April 18. Wholly appropriate, given the old motto.

Pot and kettle

Inspired, I suspect, by the Oman affair, Peter Preston, *The Guardian's* editor, is now proposing to set up a register of his journalist's interests, documenting their contacts and outside directorships. His plan, which he hopes to write into the house agreement, had been rejected yesterday by the paper's union branch on the finer details of access to the register. "It is a very low level and quiet thing," said Preston. "No story. No big deal." Indeed.

The Raj rages on

With only one more episode of *Jewel in the Crown* to run, British Raj addicts will be alarmed by the threat that now hangs over yet another Indian epic - *The Bengal Years*. The director Stephen Weeks is incensed with the film's backer, Mahmoud Sipra, who recalled three of the cast, Michael York, Trevor Howard and Miles O'Keefe, from only two weeks on location in India, because, alleges Sipra, of faulty film footage. Weeks denies the charge, insisting the film is near perfection. Yesterday he swore never to work with Sipra again. Indeed, he has found a new backer, whom he refused to name, and plans to return to India to finish filming after the monsoons. Sipra, who has already spent \$2.5m on the project has other ideas. "Weeks can shout from the top of the Empire State Building that he intends to continue, but the only way that will happen is if he writes a cheque and buys me out."



Full circle

Neil Kinnock certainly has an eye for a dramatic evening. The 7.34 theatre company, of which he is a director, is to stage the debut of its trade union-financed play about the Tolpuddle martyrs, *The Six Men of Dorset*, in Cheltenham. Curiously, the original 1934 version of the production was commissioned by the Cheltenham branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Second course

Ninety six-starved women undergoing a "slimmer's fantasy" week at Ingelwood Health Hydro, Berkshire, will be treated to a prize draw on Friday, hosted by Diana Dors. The second prize? You guessed it. Another week at Ingelwood.

Hazard in SW11

As architects prepare to present 11 schemes for the Battersea Power Station at the local Arts Centre next Wednesday, Cedric Price, who designed the London Zoo aviary with Lord Snowdon, tells me of his brainchild. Since it costs £1m alone to prop up the station's walls, he believes the whole building should be demolished, leaving only the four chimneys and the overhead masonry which have to be seen as a "natural hazard". Battersea residents have different ideas: some see their power station as an aircraft hangar, and others a Roman Catholic church.

South Africa: closer but not quite

Has South African sport changed enough to justify ending its international ostracism and sending out a rugby touring team this summer? That should be the question at the top of the agenda for Friday's meeting of England's rugby officials - not whether changes have occurred. Clearly, there is now a degree of mixed sport which would not have been tolerated in 1969-70 when an all-white rugby tour of Britain was placed under siege by demonstrators.

However, as Tommy Bedford, the vice-captain of that Springbok side, has since argued, the opportunities recently opened up for black players would not have come without the protests and boycotts. Along with South Africa's heart transplant professor, Christian Barnard, and even its white rugby supremo, Dr Danie Craven, Tommy Bedford has publicly conceded that the changes are the direct result of the South African authorities being brought hard up against the reality of isolation.

Previous decades of building bridges had only seen the position of black sport deteriorate as the net of apartheid was tightened ever more closely around the country's sport. But what have these changes added up to? Some black sports organizations have been allowed to affiliate to the dominant white bodies, which in the past have enjoyed exclusive international links. For instance, the black South African Rugby Association and the coloured (mixed race) South African Rugby Federation are now affiliated to Danie Craven's white South African Rugby Board (SARB).

Typically, however, these two non-white bodies are outnumbered on SARB's governing council by 22 white provincial affiliates. Moreover, the genuinely non-racial South

Peter Hain argues for the
postponement of the England
tour planned for this summer

African Rugby Union, with by far the largest number of black players, refuses to participate in this pale reflection of apartheid, pointing out that a few "Uncle Toms" in mainly white teams have not altered the essentially racist nature of South African rugby. Indeed progress in rugby has lagged well behind other sports, such as cricket and soccer.

Clubs in all sports are still overwhelmingly segregated. Facilities for whites far surpass those for blacks. School sports remain rigidly separate, with the government insisting that even the minimal concessions given to adults will not apply to children.

About 1 per cent of the country's sport has been integrated. Apartheid laws still govern the smallest details of sporting life. The notorious "pass laws" restrict blacks from travelling freely to away matches, or tournaments outside their home area. Black sports administrators, like cricket's Hassan Howa, are denied passports to travel to Britain to put their case. Legislation determines whether competitors can play on grounds in areas designated for other races (so that one white rugby star, "Cheeky" Watson, has been arrested for trying to play in a black township outside Port Elizabeth).

Despite some legal changes allowing "bona fide" (ie, government-approved) sports activity to circumvent racial laws, South Africa remains internationally unique in having its sport so closely controlled by a

political system which enforces discrimination.

So what should be done? When Danie Craven paid me a private visit in 1977, our mutual preconceptions of each other as boggy figures melted away in constructive discussion on ways to resolve South Africa's sports impasse. We agreed that his government must be persuaded to introduce legislation which would exempt sport from all apartheid's restrictions, and make it illegal to have racially exclusive clubs and segregated school sport.

Seven years later, the politicians in charge have still not done that, and they will not do so unless pressure is maintained. Release it, through a visit such as the English rugby tour, and they will feel no incentive to make the massive changes still needed.

If English rugby honestly and sincerely has the interests of South African rugby at heart - rather than merely a selfish desire to enjoy the fruits of its lavish white hospitality - then its leaders will postpone the planned tour, not cancel it, but postpone it until such time as the government wholeheartedly embraces the spirit of non-racial sport.

Such a decision could actually strengthen the hands of those white sports officials such as Danie Craven who want more changes. And the next item on their agenda should be an invitation to Mr Ebrahim Patel, general secretary of the non-racial South African Rugby Union, to visit England. Despite being the leader of black rugby, his views have so far not been heard.

The author is Vice-chairman of The Labour Coordinating Committee. In 1969-70 he was leader of the Stop The Seventies Tour campaign against South African sporting visits.

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Clifford Longley looks at the problem of senior Anglican appointments



Reluctant bishops? John Habgood, centre, in Bishopsthorpe Palace; David Jenkins and wife, top left; the Archbishop of Canterbury, bottom left; Patrick Roger, top right, and John Howe

The Church of England is apparently having increasing difficulty filling its top positions with the men it wants. It has become acceptable, with no loss of face or reprimand, for an archbishop, dean, suffragan bishop or theology professor to decline an invitation to fill a vacant See, and as a result some senior positions have been filled by the church's second - or third or fourth - choice.

Cardinal Basil Hume, had he been an Anglican, would never have become Archbishop of Canterbury. When offered the top position in this country in his own church, the Archbishopric of Westminster, it took a personal interview with Pope Paul VI, and a direct order, to persuade him. Refusal would be "disobedience to Christ's command", the Pope told him. The ecclesiastical appointments office at 10 Downing Street does not use that kind of language.

Appointments to bishoprics in the Church of England are handled nowadays by the Crown Appointments Commission, which has a majority of elected and ex-officio members representing the church's national interests, and a minority, changed for each appointment, representing the diocese. It sends two names to the Prime Minister, in order of preference. When it was set up in 1977 there were widespread fears that it would be open to lobbying and subject to leaks, mischievous and otherwise. In fact its security has been excellent, and only gradually is it filtering down to

Hard-to-fill houses
of the Lord

the rest of the church that some vacancies have not been easy to fill. The commission itself answers all inquiries about its work with "No comment".

Nevertheless the long gap between the announcement that Dr John Habgood was moving from Durham to York and the announcement that Professor David Jenkins was being appointed to replace him - from July last year to March this year - has given further weight to this impression. The Bishop of Durham has to live in Auckland Castle, said to have about 100 rooms and to be not the most attractive place for a bishop's wife to set up home, and it would hardly be surprising if some wives were reluctant to see their husbands make such a move.

It is widely known that the present Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, turned down the offer of the Archbishopric of York when he was Bishop of St Albans - one of three who declined it - and his recent biography by Mrs Margaret Duggan (*Runcie: The Making of an Archbishop*, Hodder and Stoughton) records that Mrs Runcie's "horror" of the palace in York was one of the reasons. In this

modern age wives are no longer willing to adapt their lives entirely to their husband's careers, and this is undoubtedly one of the factors making the Crown Appointment Commission's work more difficult. It is no longer uncommon for a churchman's wife to have a career of her own, which anchors her geographically to one area.

So far there has been no firm evidence that the See of Durham was offered to anyone else: the Commission, the office at 10 Downing Street, and the individuals approached may be the only ones who know. But apart from that and from the case of York (which apparently was declined by Bishop John Howe, then chief executive of the Anglican Communion, as well as the then Bishop of Manchester, Rt Rev Patrick Roger), it appears that more recent appointments to Worcester and to Newcastle were certainly offered to others before the present incumbents accepted. Also it is generally believed that the two Chadwick brothers - Sir Owen Chadwick and Professor Henry Chadwick - have declined more

One clerical wag - not to be believed - said the Chadwicks had taken to turning them down by printed postcard. But these fairly well-attested cases apart, there are persistent rumours of other individuals who have said no, or of other dioceses where the commission had to go down a shopping list. It would surprise no one if the commission now routinely prepared a list longer than the two names it is required to submit to the Prime Minister, to save the need for further meetings when refusals came in.

All this is not necessarily good for the church. It is not good that a promising suffragan bishop, say, might think he can turn down the first diocese he is offered, in the hope that a vacancy more agreeable to him will turn up. It is not good that a genuinely humble churchman should feel it is a voluntary matter, that he is free to choose the path which modesty dictates, for such a man is likely to have spiritual qualities the church desperately needs in its leadership.

The Church of England should decide who it wants, and then put pressure on him. An arm-twisting session with the archbishop, coupled with a warning that no man who refused one offer could expect another, might persuade better men on to the bench, and might persuade reluctant wives that duty really was making an urgent call. The Church of England needs a Basil Hume or two; but in the present atmosphere it will not get one.

Jock Bruce-Gardyne

Pay before patients?
A nursing dilemma

Sir John Greenborough is a glutton for punishment. At the end of the 1970s he crowned a distinguished career in the oil industry with a notably successful two-year stint as president of the Confederation of British Industry. Thereafter he could reasonably have looked forward to combining the chairmanship of one public company, and non-executive directorships in a few others, with more time for the golf course, the concert hall, and travel.

But over the past few months those delights have had to take a back seat. For last autumn he was invited by the Prime Minister, with whom he shares a considerable mutual admiration, to chair the new Review Body for Nursing and Midwifery Staff set up after the long and acrimonious health service wrangle in 1982. Any day now he is due to deposit the conclusions of his first adjudication on the doorstep of 10 Downing Street.

The Confederation of Health Service Employees (Cohse) wants a flat-rate £40-a-week rise for all nurses and midwives, regardless of skills, experience and responsibility; while the Royal College of Nursing, representing the upper reaches of the profession, unsurprisingly opts for a good deal more than that for its own clientele. The Department of Health and Social Security, on the other hand - equally unsurprisingly, since this is the provision written into its pay cash limits this year - says 3 per cent is quite enough.

Judging by the noises of their leaders, the assorted health service unions would go quietly for something around 10 per cent. The Prime Minister most certainly would not. Unfortunately, however, while the Government has retained the right to tell Sir John and his colleagues to get lost, Norman Fowler has made it clear that it would not like to do that: "We did not set up the review body in order to reject its findings." So Sir John had better get it right.

If NHS precedent were anything to go by, that is about the last thing he could be expected to do. The mantle that has now fallen on his shoulders was previously worn by Lord Halsbury in 1974, and by Professor "Comparability" Clegg in 1979. Lord Halsbury and his team produced voluminous evidence of the availability of nursing and midwifery candidates of quality, and of the ability of the NHS to retain their services, when once recruited, at existing rates of pay; and then concluded that they should be paid a bumper increase to show how much we loved them. Professor Clegg's remit, of course, had nothing to do with the laws of supply and demand: his task was to "ask what the boys in the back-room will have, and tell them we're having the same". In fact

he didn't bother very much about the laws of arithmetic either, if they got in the way of a substantial settlement for his clients.

But precedent is not - at any rate should not be - very much to go by in this instance. For the Government made it crystal clear, when it finally conceded the principle of a review body to halt disruption in the hospitals 18 months ago, that it had in mind something quite different from what had gone before: a review body which would direct its mind to what was needed to recruit and retain the nurses and midwives of the quality the nation could afford, and to hell with sentiment and keeping up with the Joneses. And it shaped the membership of this new body accordingly.

Even so, it still looks nip and tuck. The DHSS, it seems, has told Sir John and friends that, in its estimation "existing pay levels broadly meet" the criterion of recruitment and retention (why, if that be so, an increase of any kind is called for is not explained, but let that pass). "Pay or remuneration increases higher than 3 per cent would have to be financed at the expense of services to patients."

Given that suitable young ladies are queuing up for every nursing post in sight, a visitor from Mars might deem these arguments conclusive. The trouble is that they do not exactly reflect what has happened hitherto. When the good Professor Clegg was hauled out from Warwick University to rescue Jim Callaghan from the winter of discontent, the then Chief Secretary of the Treasury, Joel Barnett, sternly warned that if he doubled the number he finessed thought of - as he was sure to do - then it would mean cuts in personnel and services; and that message was repeated fortissimo by Geoffrey Howe. Needless to say, Professor Clegg ignored it, and it didn't happen.

Over the ensuing four years' the number of nurses and midwives on the payroll of the NHS went up by nearly 11 per cent (notwithstanding the fact that the ratio of nurses to beds already exceeded parity). So the health service unions might be forgiven for accusing the DHSS of crying wolf.

In this respect as well, one feels, things could be different this time round. So who would be Sir John? If he accepts the logic of the DHSS submission, he had better not succumb to acute appendicitis. But if instead he is swayed by the siren voices of Cohse and the Royal College of Nursing, not only will he whistle for invitations from No 10: he might find there was no bed available to treat his appendicitis anyway.

Phillip Whitehead

Fanfare for the
broken man

When I first saw him he was only 19, and wearing a blanket. The prison pallor already offset his shock of reddish-brown hair. There was a kind of desperate calm about him, far from home and "on the blanket". Nearly a decade later he is immured, under intolerable duress, in the old control unit in Wakefield prison. As he is being held under a total of 30 counts of life imprisonment, one for each of the amateurish letter bombs he posted out from his native Londonderry in 1973-4, there will be those who say that anything which happens to this young man is justified. They need not read on.

The case of Shane Paul O'Doherty will shortly be taken to the European Court of Human Rights. He is asking to be moved back to Northern Ireland, where his aged mother resides and where his offences were committed. He is unusual in that he does not dispute or seek to mitigate the gravity of those offences, which claimed one person and could have injured others; nor that loss of liberty for many years is the price exacted. All of his youth will have gone to pay it.

O'Doherty became involved with the IRA in Londonderry in the aftermath of Bloody Sunday. He was 18. He had seen friends shot. For youths of his age and background, the Provos could come out of the shadows, murmuring of the necessary murder.

His brother asked me to visit him in 1975, in the category A wing at Wormwood Scrubs. From that first encounter, with its edgy point-scoring and mutual incomprehension, has developed a friendship that I value, with a young man whose maturation was for some years quite remarkable. He thought deeply about violence and its consequences. He sought permission to contact all those whom he had tried to injure, to seek their forgiveness. And, in the dismay of other IRA men in Wormwood Scrubs and of those still pushing Armalites into the hands of a fresh generation back home, he renounced violence in an open letter to Bishop Daly, published in Londonderry. In that he said: "I was a hypocrite. In injuring human beings I did not cure injustices. I created new ones."

It was a brave stand by a young man who knows well enough the destructive power of those who have terror at their beck and call. He had already ended his prison protests, come "off the blanket", and become a moral force for good inside the Scrubs.

O'Doherty also underwent a profound religious experience, which may lead him to the Franciscans after his eventual release, and began to study. By the late 1970s a number of members of Parliament with whom he had corresponded were asking the Home Office for better study facilities for

him, relaxation of Category A status, and some understanding about a transfer to Northern Ireland. Ministers were unhelpful. O'Doherty was suddenly moved to Gartree in 1980, where a more restrictive regime began to sour his hopes, and to Long Lartin in 1983.

Authority will point to the fact that he refused to work. In despair at this regression, at the end of 1983, and to his protests on behalf of other prisoners who were allegedly beaten up in Long Lartin, as evidence that he is incorrigible, in the last few months he has been in Winslow Green, Bristol, and now Wakefield. Lord Elton, under fire from Lords Hylton and Longford over the treatment of O'Doherty, told the former on March 2: "I was not convinced that he has broken his links with para-military organizations, particularly since he was refusing to comply with the rules." The mastery with which O'Doherty gives away the Home Office case. He speaks out. He helps other prisoners. Ergo, he is a terrorist at heart. Last week Mr Douglas Hurd produced another variation on this theme in a Commons debate initiated by Andrew Bennett, MP.

It is true that O'Doherty has become embittered by these past five years. Not a glimmer of hope has ever been whispered to him. His first and only mother was apallingly treated at Long Lartin when she came over from Derry to visit him last year.

In Wakefield, O'Doherty is now being held under Rule 43, forbidden to speak to other prisoners or to attend the Catholic chapel. He is quite literally boxed in, as he enters his second decade of imprisonment. As we watch the Home Secretary glide down the long slipway of his self-esteem, we know he carries no doubts about the effect of 30-year sentences without hope of improvement. But what of his juniors? Douglas Hurd and Rodney Elton are honourable men. Do they ever wonder why so many people have become exercised over the O'Doherty case, and find him a remarkable human being, even when stubborn and obsessive as prison has made him?

Those of us who count Shane O'Doherty a friend are not apologists for terrorism, or for that auto-destructive army of the night that deals in sadism, extortion, and sectarian slaughter. We know that when Irishmen eventually sit down together to discuss, not territory and flags, but reconciliation of different national traditions, O'Doherty and those who have come through the fever of violence should be there. Instead, he may be broken and rebubled in Wakefield jail.

The author was secretary of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group from 1970-83.



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THE CHAOS CLEARS

Sunday's elections in El Salvador certainly produced scenes of confusion and frustration, scenes that were largely absent from the Constituent Assembly elections of 1982. Inadequate or contradictory directions, lack of ballot papers, the familiar failures of the computer - complications of the system rather than the ignorance of the voters - seemed to account for much of this in the areas where people voted. Voting took place in well over 200 of the Republic's 260 municipalities, and it is estimated that something over half of the 2.5 million electorate voted. Voting is obligatory, and though the formal sanctions are small this influences the size of the vote in areas the government control. The elections did not take place everywhere in that atmosphere of "Free and secure expression of opinion" that Dr Kissinger's report sees as a prerequisite of peace.

Yet these elections are not meaningless. Though there has not so far been an official announcement of figures our observer Sir James Swaffield was probably right to declare "There will be a result, about which one must have some qualifications", and to make the point that confusion does not necessarily mean corruption; indeed, it may even be caused by computerised efforts to prevent corruption. Unofficial estimates, compiled by the Christian Democrats but confirmed by other sources and not yet seriously challenged by their opponents, give their candidate José Napoleon Duarte somewhere between 44.5 per

cent and 48 per cent of the vote. Major Roberto D'Aubuisson of the far-right ARENA around 29 per cent, and Francisco José Guerrero of the conservative National Conciliation Party some 17 per cent.

This at least gives an indication of the support enjoyed by these politically distinct elements in elections that, in the words of our correspondent, offered a "limited but clear choice". Señor Duarte appears to have done some five per cent better than his party did in 1982, the other two candidates holding their party vote. This runs counter to the widespread notion of the irresistible rise of Major D'Aubuisson, and has important implications. Under the Salvadorean system, the choice of President must now be determined by a run-off within 40 days between the two leading contenders. It is by no means clear that Señor Duarte will lose the second round.

Nor are all groups in the FMLN-FDR opposition indifferent to the possibilities that his victory would open. Ruben Zamora, Secretary of the Front's Political and Diplomatic Commission, recently gave it as his personal guess that a D'Aubuisson win would produce a coup backed by the United States, but that a coup against Duarte would be frustrated. Duarte's proposals for future negotiations with the FMLN-FDR are not impossible distant from the FMLN-FDR's own proposals. Dr Kissinger's report strongly urges negotiations after these elections are over. They will certainly have

been worth the effort if such a convergence of views is brought closer.

Will that happen? The second electoral round is not predictable, nor are reactions to it. The potential for increased violence is obvious. Most Salvadorean politicians, right across the spectrum, have so little patience in negotiation and small talents for compromise or collaboration. From General Martinez, who bloodily suppressed the "Communists" in 1932, to Major D'Aubuisson today, the Salvadorean right has fed on anti-Communist rhetoric that would sound strident even to General Pinochet. Such simplifications, and similar simplifications in Washington, produce opposite simplifications on the left, and the cycle of violence confirms each side's beliefs about the other. To break this cycle it will require not only a political shift but a complex system of tangible guarantees for those who are prepared to stop fighting. How can such a system be installed in El Salvador? If he wins the next round, Señor Duarte must still govern for a year with the existing Constituent Assembly. Can he form and hold together a credible coalition?

It has been too common place to say that these elections by themselves will not solve anything. They are not yet over, and the civil war goes on. But they might produce a result that brought a negotiated settlement nearer and such a settlement would benefit not only El Salvador. So they are elections worth watching.

AN AFRICAN TRAGEDY

President Ahmed Sekou Touré of Guinea, whose death was announced yesterday, was a tragic figure in the full sense of that term. His life could be the subject of a classic Shakespearean tragedy with its familiar theme: the hero fatally corrupted by absolute power. A dramatist would perhaps have had him die under the assassin's rather than the surgeon's knife, and would have written in a larger female role. Otherwise, the story has drama, pathos and sheer horror enough for the most jaded audience.

For Sekou Touré was a hero. In 1958, when he led Guinea to independence, he enjoyed the passionate and almost unanimous admiration of his people. He was a brilliant organizer and shrewd politician who knew when to be tough and when to compromise. Largely self-educated, and learning quickly from French trade unionists, he never saw eye to eye with the radical, Paris-based African intelligentsia. They criticised him sharply for cooperating with French governments and accepting office under the "Loi-Cadre" brought in in 1956 by M. Gaston Defferre (then Minister of Overseas France) in the Guy Mollet government, now President Mitterrand's minister of the Interior), which gave only limited autonomy to the Black African territories. But Touré rightly saw that this gave African nationalists a chance to establish a power-base on their own

ground, from which they could then push for full independence. "Nous avons fait l'économie d'une guerre," (we have saved ourselves a war), he remarked, comparing Guinea's experience with that of the Algerians were then going through.

His finest hour came in September 1958 when, alone of France's Black African territories, Guinea voted No in the referendum on de Gaulle's constitution, thereby opting for immediate independence and rejecting the half-way house of membership of the "French Community". "Guinea prefers poverty in freedom to wealth in slavery," declared Sekou Touré somewhat histrionically, and de Gaulle took him at his word. The French administration pulled out of Guinea within days, taking with it whatever French government property it could remove - even the telephones - and de Gaulle refused even to discuss the possibility of French aid to the newly independent state.

Touré was the hero of all Africa, and became the close ally of Kwame Nkrumah, who chose Guinea as his place of exile after his fall in 1966. But, like Nkrumah, Touré found that a state-controlled economy, so far from ensuring that the people benefited from their country's economic resources, lacked the capital, the expertise, and above all the initiative to develop and market those resources. He soon lost all illusions about Soviet

aid (one consignment of which allegedly contained a snow-plough), but not until the last years of his life did he reconcile himself to encouraging Western capitalist investment. Meanwhile, he had become obsessed with the fear of plots against him inside and outside the country. Some one million Guineans are now thought to be living in exile. Seventeen cabinet ministers have been executed or have died in prison (Diallo Telli, the widely-respected former secretary-general of the Organization of African Unity, was one of those deliberately starved to death), and another eighteen sentenced to life imprisonment.

It does not say much for the prevailing political mores in the world that, in spite of all this, Sekou Touré had latterly come to be regarded both in the OAU and in the Islamic Conference Organization as a great "moderate" and even something of a statesman. He played an important role in securing Egypt's readmission to the Islamic Conference this February, and was expected to host an OAU summit in Conakry early in the summer. He had mediated unsuccessfully in the Iran-Iraq war and was latterly trying his hand at mediation in the Western Sahara dispute which threatened to make the OAU summit untenable. He will be sorely missed, as they say - but not, one suspects, by many of the Guinean people.

TESTING THE TESTER

It is a thing very much to be desired that there should be a cheap, easy and reliable means of securing the evidence necessary to convict drivers who endanger their own lives and those of others by taking to the road when they are drunk. The sharp decline in drunken driving arrests over Christmas showed how readily motorists respond to indications that they are less likely to get away with it than before: it falls into the category of tariff-responsive crimes. At Christmas the Home Office thought (or protested very insistently that it thought) that a cheap, easy and reliable means of securing convictions had at last been put into the hands of the police. Now it seems less sure of that.

Publicity works both ways, and one consequence of this damaging episode may well be that some drivers calculate that they might get away with it after all. The evidence indicates that it is spring, not Christmas, when drivers killed on the road are most likely to have been drunk, and many tragedies may result in the coming weeks. The police will have to exercise control as best they can, although the old evidential techniques which all suspects will now have the right to demand take up much more

police time - with a consequent reduction in time spent on patrol. But it is equally necessary to avoid further undermining the public's legitimate expectation that the law should be applied fairly.

It will not be easy to make things look fair, within the programme outlined by the Government this week. There will eventually be at least four categories of drivers banned from the road after being tested on the Lion Intoximeter. There will be those arrested before there were publicly-admitted doubts about the reliability of the machine; those arrested between now and April 16, when Mr Hurd's new safeguards come in; and those arrested afterwards who either fail or fail to ask for the confirmatory tests of blood or urine. If it is fair to give the latter that option, it must look unfair to uphold the penalties imposed without an option on the first category, let alone those still to be imposed on the second.

The delay in introducing the safeguards is said to be administratively unavoidable, because police surgeons will be needed in sufficient numbers to meet a demand which will no doubt be swollen by vexatious and frivolous claims. No-one would wish

to see the next three weekends go by with no effective drink-driving test at all: the Home Office has simply got itself into an impossible situation. The only palliative will be for the courts, after the period is over, to give the promptest and most attentive hearing possible to appeals.

The official case is that there is still no reason to believe the machine generally unreliable. Anybody with evidence of a malfunction at any time may appeal. In practice the evidence will be difficult to secure, and the process of going back to court is a daunting one. Eventually the machine may recover its reputation in spite of the disturbing evidence uncovered by the *Daily Express*: one must hope so. In the meantime there are urgent questions to be answered about how the Government allowed itself to adopt a system after what is now seen to be inadequate testing. There are signs of a widespread self-righteous blind faith by the authorities in their new toy, even when it began behaving oddly. The outcome is a grave blow to public respect for the law. The fight against drunken driving is a good cause, one of the best. But a good cause is not enough: justice must be done and seen to be done as well.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Miss Tisdall, official secrecy and the public interest

From the Editor of The Guardian
Sir, Can I offer some clarifications which may assist correspondents like Mrs Bridget Smithers (March 27) in their reflections on the Sarah Tisdall case.

The Government proceedings for the return of the cruise document against The Guardian newspaper last December were civil ones. The Treasury Solicitor could have argued against us under the Official Secrets Act. In fact, he argued the laws of property and copyright.

At the end of those proceedings we, as a company, were faced with escalating fines for contempt of court if we did not comply.

In a sympathetic editorial at that time ("Caveat talpa", December 17) you pointed out that we did not know our informant, nor whether return of the document would trace the leaker. "No explicit or implicit contract exists, and it is almost quixotic to act as if it did."

You therefore concluded that we should have returned the document more promptly, without prolonged legal resistance.

It was over three weeks before Miss Tisdall - our unknown informant - confessed to spare the other 10 people in her office further distress. She was then charged - as we had not been charged - under the Official Secrets Act.

General to charge us both then, but that was specifically not done because the Crown in our own civil proceedings had repeatedly admitted that, in publishing the document, we had not acted against the "public interest" and thus it would be hard to argue, against Miss Tisdall and The Guardian together, that the public interest had been harmed. I find that distressingly hypocritical; and a pungent comment on the ramshackle state of the Official Secrets Act.

Yours faithfully,
PETER PRESTON, Editor.
The Guardian,
119 Farringdon Road, EC1,
March 27.

From Mr Denis Christian

Sir, In your leader, "Miss Tisdall's case" (March 26), you say that a document of the sort in question would probably have remained "within a 'secret' classification of some sort." This is impressive and we may have seen, here, a case of over-classification for political purposes.

In sentencing Miss Tisdall, Mr Justice Candel observed, "...any person entrusted with any material classified as secret (my italics) ... should not escape a criminal sentence." However, prior to this, on December 13, when The Guardian appealed, Sir John Donaldson said that the published document contained no information which would be of use to enemies of this country.

Given our knowledge of the broad definitions into which the contents of a paper ought to fit before meriting a particular classification, we do not see how Sir John's opinion was the document over-classified? If so, Miss Tisdall was in prison for a technical offence against the security of the country, when in fact her offence was the breaking of a confidence of a matter deserving a lower security grade.

More broadly, any consistent usage of over-classification for political purposes means that, increasingly, decision-making is in the hands of the few, based on the "need to know" maxim. Perhaps decision-makers of all parties will turn their attention to this.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS CHRISTIAN,
9 High Beach,
Felkstone,
Suffolk,
March 26.

Politics of tobacco

From Lord Ennals

Sir, In a piece about the tobacco lobby by Thomson Press, Science Correspondent (March 20), a spokesman for the Freedom Organisation for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco is quoted as saying that the personal views about smoking and legislation by George Young, MP, who used to be Parliamentary Under Secretary for Health, did not reflect Government policy at the time.

This is outrageous whatever Sir George Young's personal views about smoking - and so far as I am aware, they were exemplary for anyone holding office in the Department of Health - what really mattered were his actions as minister. These had the full and active support of his Secretary of State, the Right Hon Patrick Jenkin, MP, who incidentally was moved from the Department of Health in the same reshuffle as Sir George.

In reporting the quote, your Correspondent should have mentioned that this "Freedom organization" is sponsored by the tobacco manufacturers.

Yours faithfully,
ENNALS,
House of Lords,
March 22.

VAT on buildings

From Mr C. Wickenden

Sir, In his Budget speech the Chancellor said that he had chosen June 1, 1984, as the starting date for the changes in VAT on building alteration work so as to allow sufficient time for current contracts to be completed.

Would it not have been fairer to allow contracts agreed prior to March 13 to remain zero-rated? Two and a half months might be a long time in politics, but that is not the case in the construction industry.

Yours faithfully,
C. WICKENDEN,
Wood Sorel,
Cokes Lane,
Chalfont St Giles,
Buckinghamshire,
March 22.

From Rear-Admiral A. D. Torlesse

Sir, The propriety of delegating to a junior and inexperienced clerk the handling of secret and highly sensitive documents under conditions in which she was able to retain copies does not seem to have been questioned.

Such work should surely have been entrusted to a more senior and reliable person and closely supervised. But perhaps it is idle to look for elementary common sense in the Foreign Office.

Yours faithfully,
A. D. TORLESSE,
1 Sway Lodge,
Lymington,
Hampshire,
March 26.

From Miss E. L. Smith

Sir, It has not failed to escape my notice that since Sarah Tisdall was sentenced at the Old Bailey there has been an outcry by the "do-gooders" to defend her and criticise the sentence passed on her. She was at the beginning of her diplomatic career and as such was not paid to decide what the public should know.

"It was not the right to reason why - hers was to do or die". She obviously was not aware of the code connected with the Civil Service - you are there to serve the Government of the day, whether you like them or not.

She has abused the privilege of working at the Foreign Office - yes, it is a privilege to work there - and the trust that was placed in her.

There have been far too many leaks and a stand must be made sooner or later. In my book she got what she deserved.

Yours faithfully,
E. L. SMITH,
1 St Ann's Close,
Chertsey,
Surrey,
March 26.

From Brigadier P. K. Goozee

Sir, Having suffered the hand-writing sentimentalism of last Saturday's *Guardian*, to which the BBC gave main-story prominence in its morning news broadcasts, and the sanctimonious claptrap of yesterday's *Sunday Times*, your leading article this morning (March 26) has done much to restore my confidence in British journalism.

However, should you not have made the further point that the Editor of The Guardian, when he first received the two documents, ought at once to have returned them to their rightful owner? What else should one do as the receiver of property, obviously stolen and obviously valuable, on which the identity of the owner is plain to see?

I trust I am right in believing that this is what you would have done; otherwise I may feel obliged to give up British newspapers entirely - and where else could I then turn for journalistic integrity?

Yours faithfully (and, I trust, continuing so),
P. K. GOOZEE,
Kestrel,
Middleton Stoney,
Bicester,
Oxfordshire,
March 26.

From Mr Colin McGrady

Sir, Having recently spent eight days in HM Prison, Pentonville, as a consequence of an act of conscience against the nuclear arms race, I must take issue with your leader ("Miss Tisdall's case") today that "even a few nights in prison would... have been sufficiently horrifying to act as a deterrent against any temptation to act in a similar way."

I do fully agree that even a very short time in prison is a horrible experience and the prospect of

several months in Holloway must be a truly ghastly one for Miss Tisdall. Moreover, the length of her sentence is indeed totally out of proportion to the offence.

However, it cannot be stressed strongly enough that there can never be an effective deterrent against a genuine act of conscience - no amount of punishment should be able to deter a person from acting according to his/her highest principles.

If one's conscience dictates the following of a particular course and if that course leads to breaking the law of the land (whether under a tyranny or in a democracy) one must be prepared to accept whatever punishment is finally imposed, however severe, with grace and dignity.

To her great credit, Miss Tisdall herself appears to have accepted her fate and one can only wish her well during those interminable days of confinement.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN McGRADY,
Green Lodge,
58 Sheffield Terrace, W8,
March 26.

From Mr S. E. Scammell

Sir, Clearly it was necessary to send Miss Tisdall to prison in order to discourage a steady procession of secret documents from Whitehall to Fleet Street. But many people will surely consider that she should be joined there by the Editor of The Guardian who was an accessory after the crime and took an advantage from it.

Yours faithfully,
S. E. SCAMMELL,
Clouds Estate,
East Knyle,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire,
March 26.

From Mr Eric Phillips

Sir, In recent years individual ministers and senior members of the defence Forces have from time to time been suspected of themselves leaking information on secret or confidential proposals going before Cabinet, the purpose being to stir up public or party opinion for or against the proposals, according to the leaker's own view of what the public interest requires.

I hope we can assume that whenever such a case occurs in future Scotland Yard will be called in and the Attorney General should the evidence be sufficient, will arrange for the leaker to be tried at the Old Bailey. As for the sentence of the court, I suggest that, measured on the Tisdall scale, it should be imprisonment for at least five years.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC PHILLIPS,
46 Platts Lane, NW3,
March 26.

From Mr Philip Hawkins

Sir, It is said to see the refined terminology of espionage invented by John Le Carré being degraded in the media and elsewhere (as in the headline to your Crime Reporter's contribution on page two of The Times, March 24).

In chapter 8 of *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* a mole is defined as "a deep penetration agent, so called because he burrows deep.... Moles are very precious... because of the many years it takes to place them."

Miss Tisdall was no mole. Could not those who betray the trust placed in them by leaking Government secrets to the public be more aptly described as "squeakers"?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP HAWKINS,
25 Upland Park Road,
Oxford,
March 25.

contrary, even in terms of attendance and subsidy per seat, let alone the evident quality of its recent work.

There can be no doubt that the current drama panel, and the drama department, if adequately consulted, would totally confirm confidence in the ESC and its future, now threatened.

Council members will surely not wish to treat any of its advisory panels, or its own departmental officers, with the contempt which a decision to cripple the English Stage Company would unmistakably signal.

We are, Sir, yours etc,
HUGH WILLIAT,
JOHN FAULKNER,
RICHARD HODGKINSON,
J. W. LAMBERT,
J. L. HODGKINSON,
N. V. LINKLATER,
4 St Peter's Wharf,
Hammersmith Terrace, W8.

proper policy of devolution from 105 Piccadilly.
Yours sincerely,
ROBERT BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH,
Bracefield,
Clackmannan,
March 23.

Levels of education

From Mr B. W. Grantham-Hill

Sir, Have the noble minds of Lord Flowers (March 8) and Mr Roy Avery (March 19) considered what happens when a boys' grammar school rejects "ambitious general studies programmes" while the nearby girls' grammar school embraces them heartily?

That we have here a wonderful tool to reduce the success of A-level students, by diverting their mental energies from their "three subjects", what a boon to administrators wishing to curtail the numbers of university entrants: nothing is too subtle in education today!

Yours very sincerely,
B. W. GRANTHAM-HILL,
9 Courland Road,
Shipway,
Torquay,
Devon,
March 19.

Public spending and the citizen

From Professor K. G. Denbigh, FRS

Sir, In two successive leaders (March 23 and 24) as well as in many earlier ones you have called for a reduction in public expenditure. You have also asked for a "lively public debate" and you say that your own "central philosophical conviction" is that the citizen "is the best judge... of how and where to spend his money."

I agree, but this does not exclude the possibility that some citizens may wish to spend some part of their money on publicly provided benefits rather than on privately purchased commodities. This option seems to be strangely overlooked in your own thinking on the matter.

A "lively public debate" implies many voices. Let me then speak for myself, as you have done for yourself. I am quite happy that I should pay an appreciable portion of my income as taxes and rates if these contributions will help me to obtain a fine environment in which to live, including litter-free streets, well-tended parks and a countryside free from haphazard development; and if they will also give me an efficient and inexpensive system of public transport reducing the nuisance of cars in the cities; and again if they will provide well-stocked public libraries, good museums, art galleries and theatres.

Beyond that I look for an effective service, together with the satisfaction of knowing that others, too, can enjoy such a service and have protection against the damage done by poverty or unemployment. And, of course, I look for the existence of a BBC and of a system of public education, of which one can continue to be proud.

All these things are my "needs" and for them I am pleased to make the necessary payment. Obviously enough they cannot be provided by individuals acting on their own - only by public institutions charged with the duties and requiring contributions in the form of taxes or rates. No doubt the good things I have listed are the products of "the state", of the "collectivist and corporatist apparatus", the "bureaucracy", against which and whom you inveigh so weightily. Nevertheless these are the things I ask for, quite as much as for ever more commodities. Does your "central philosophical conviction" not take any account of this?

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH DENBIGH,
Film Walks,
19 Sheridan Road, SW19,
March 25.

Churchill's hideaway

From Mr Nigel West

Sir, There has been speculation concerning the exact location of Churchill's secret wartime bunker, code-named Paddock, since the publication of his intriguing but brief reference to it in *The Second World War*, vol II. Your report on Churchill's use of the Railway Executive's headquarters under Down Street, Mayfair (March 19) suggests that Paddock's exact location remains undiscovered and that it is believed to have been sited in a disused Tube station in north London.

In fact a Cabinet file now stored in the Public Record Office, Kew, under the title "CWR/2" (Cabinet War Room/2) tells a different story. Paddock was specially constructed in the summer of 1940 in the grounds of the Post Office Research Station at Dollis Hill.

The part of Paddock that is on the surface is a windowless concrete structure and is clearly visible from Brook Road, outside the old Post Office premises. The building extends deep underground, fully justifying Churchill's comment that it was "far from the light of day" and contains some of its original equipment, including its emergency generator.

Churchill recalled attending a meeting of the War Cabinet at Paddock on September 29, 1940, and "celebrated the occasion with a vivacious lunch".

CWR/2's unusual code name may be explained by the street sign directly opposite Paddock's gates: "Paddock Road, NW2."

Yours sincerely,
NIGEL WEST,
310 Fulham Road, SW10,
March 19.

Informed consent?

From Professor Emeritus H. C. McLaren

Sir, The other day, landing at Heathrow, the pilot told us that although they were watching like hawks the plane had been landed by electronics.

I am glad to say that before this he did not ask for a show of consenting hands.

The difference between this kind of experiment and "medical" consent discussed by the expert medical team (letter, March 19) is that the medical director is not always up front like our cheerful BA pilot!

Yours sincerely,
HUGH CAMERON McLAREN,
26 Ampton Road,
Birmingham,
March 19.

Cooling-off time

From Dr E. D. Deas

Sir, So Mr Dormer (March 23) thinks that an object cannot of its own accord become cooler than its surroundings. Perhaps he would be good enough to bring this to the attention of my wife's feet, which persist in achieving this scientific impossibility.

Yours faithfully,
E. D. DEAS,
Rehul Farm,
Wrexham,
Chwyd,
March 23.

The Times Midland Correspondent,
Craig Seton, looks at Britain's second city
which in earlier days claimed to house
1,000 trades. Now the search is for new
jobs in high technology industries and the
service sector.

Birmingham's postwar prosperity has been shattered, but Britain's second city is vigorously disinclined to be regarded as a has-been. Instead, it is becoming boastful again, actively encouraging a brash, self-confident image as it sets about the mammoth task of generating new wealth and creating desperately-needed jobs.

The wealth of this city of over one million people ran right through into the early 1970s. Only now are the newspaper cuttings chronicling its rather self-indulgent sense of well-being turning yellow.

A decade can be a long time in the life of a city. The area's reliance on "metal bashing" industries - cars, foundry work, electrical and mechanical engineering - made it especially vulnerable when the fierce winds of the recession tore through the old, insecure manufacturing base.

Birmingham intends to rely heavily once again on the innovative and entrepreneurial skills for which it was renowned. Regeneration, though, can still be a dispiriting business. The triumph of new jobs created can be quickly put into perspective when another industrial giant dumps several thousand jobs in one go.

Mr Harold Blumenthal, chairman of the city's powerful economic development committee, said: "One of the worst problems is that Birmingham was too early on the industrial scheme. A great deal of our industrial buildings were Victorian or early 1930s and not at all suitable for the modern industry we need now. One of our primary aims has been to recycle those sites to make space available for new developments. We also hope the advantages of Birmingham's communications, with excellent motorways and rail links and an international airport in the heart of the country, will balance out the deficiencies."

The drive for new jobs is concentrating very much in two areas: the creation of modern, science-based and high-tech industries, and the expansion of service sector employment. The city council, at present Tory controlled, believes that public money should be used - in large amounts - to "prime the pumps": get projects off the ground and demonstrate the

confidence that will attract sector investment.

It is not surprising, therefore, that council leaders queue up to state their excitement and enthusiasm for the city's largest project, a proposed £125m international convention centre for the city centre. The complex of halls and a five star hotel which, if built and completed by the end of the decade, should provide up to 2,000 new jobs and bring at least £40m a year to the local economy.

Councillor Neville Bosworth, the Tory leader of the council, says the project will bring Birmingham new jobs, new wealth and attract international attention. Mr Bernard Zissman, chairman of the general purposes committee, said: "It is part of the 1980s revolution in the city. Manufacturing will still form the main plank of our industry, but we are having to move into the service sector, which is labour intensive, and redirect jobs there."

The city council proposes that it should put up about £90m of the cash involved, the rest to be attracted from the private sector. Recently, a council delegation went to Brussels to state its case for EEC aid for the scheme and is hopeful that up to 40 per cent of the council's share could be met from Community funds.

Difficulties facing even the optimists in Birmingham are enormous. Between March 1975 and March 1982, about 324,000 jobs were lost in the West Midlands - 96 per cent in manufacturing. Unemployment in the city is just under 90,000, as high as 30 or more per cent in some wards which also have all usual problems associated with inner city deprivation.

Facing these problems, Birmingham's leaders adopt a no-nonsense, "let's get on with it" approach and are scathing about their counterparts in other depressed conurbations where, they say, the only noticeable movement is the anguished wringing of hands.

The Conservatives, who returned to power in May 1982, set about council service and manpower with Thatcherite vigour. The rates were cut for the first time in 40 years, by 15p (12 per cent), which they said saved a large ratepayer like BL £300,000 a year. The budget for 1984-85, which at £373m is

exactly in line with the Government's target, will see a second rate cut of about 5p (4½ per cent). The authority's manpower will have been cut from over 56,000 four years ago, to about 48,000 in the next financial year.

Mr Bosworth, the council leader, said it was imperative that before the council played its part in generating wealth, it "gets the basics right".

"We are continually combing our services and getting more efficient at a lower cost. The Government and the local authority are setting the climate to get things moving to revitalise and regenerate the economy of Birmingham."

The Conservatives have a majority of only three and may well hand over control to Labour in the May elections. Councillor Dick Knowles, in a recent policy statement, said: "We must concentrate the major part of our programme on those firms that are doing well, whose long-term prospects are good, but who may be facing financial problems at the moment."

Special attention also had to

Birmingham



Tom Caulcott, Chief Executive of Birmingham City Council: "This is a brash, dynamic and go-ahead place, prepared to knock things down and start again..."

Pictures by John Reardon

the city's ageing housing stock and buying up land and recycling old factory sites. Housing capital expenditure is currently £121m - three times the level of 1981-82.

The massive shopping, office and road developments in the city centre of the 1960s and 1970s may give Birmingham a brash, bold, not to say inelegant visage, but in the inner city areas many of the old problems remain. An estimated 180,000 dwellings are regarded as unsatisfactory. 20,000 people are on the housing waiting list, and demographic changes now mean that the largest demand for council accommodation is from single people.

About 15 per cent of the population is now living in households where the head of the family was born in a New Commonwealth country or Pakistan, and many of the ethnic "Burmies" are living in the poorest areas.

The council has sold more than 6,000 council houses to sitting tenants. Many of the 429 high-rise blocks in the city - the result of slum clearances - are now themselves in need of urgent repair. The council has an extensive programme of council housing improvements at a cost of £31m this year.

Mr Tom Caulcott, the city chief executive, joins the elected leaders in his refusal to be downhearted or pessimistic about the city's future.

"This is a brash, dynamic and go-ahead place, prepared to knock things down and start again", he said. "It does not accept failure easily. When the economic upturn comes we must be ready to take advantage of it as much, if not more, than any other local authority in the country."

But for all the confidence, there is more than a note of cautious realism. Councillor Blumenthal said: "Birmingham is in a very difficult situation. We are losing jobs in thousands and gaining them in tens and hundreds. We cannot do the job ourselves, but at least we can prime the pump."

"At worst, we are getting money circulating and at best we are creating new industry. I am not pessimistic. The local authority can give leadership and set an example. We are the 'enablers' - we will let people do their thing and be a success."

POPULATION (1981 Census)

Birmingham City	1,006,527
City Centre (1980 Est)	22,000
West Midlands	2,628,419
Metropolitan County	5,148,345
West Midlands Region	

BIRMINGHAM PROFILE

Area	85,288 acres
Public Open Space	7,228 acres

Land for new housing within 5 yrs

Estimated dwelling capacity	980 acres
Private sector dwellings built 1982	14,082 units
Dwellings in owner occupation	1,284 units
	62.6 per cent

DISTANCES AND TIMES

Road distances (and rail times)	
To London 105m (1h 31mins)	

To Manchester 80m (1h 39mins)

To Bristol 81m (1h 29mins)	
To Glasgow 282m (4h 20mins)	

CITY CENTRE PROFILE

Area (Central Area District Plan)	2,280 acres
Retail floor space (1977)	2,123,000 sq ft net
Off-street car park spaces	12,890

assisted areas map, the area has to be on it.

Two major schemes in the city have recently attracted record urban development grants from the Department of the Environment. One of nearly £6m - the largest granted in the country - is towards the £23m bill for development of a high quality engineering park on 45 acres of land at Witton, owned by industrial giant ICI.

The development should create about 1,000 jobs. It is intended to attract a wide range of new and existing companies, especially those likely to draw on the city's skilled engineering workforce.

An UDG of £4.7m has also been granted towards the £35m Paradise Circus development, four office blocks, an hotel and multi-storey car park, which is being created out of a partnership of the city and developers Henry Boot. A new concert hall and lecture theatre will also be built there for the city.

While attempting to regenerate industry, there are also large areas of capital expenditure devoted to the rehabilitation of

be paid to science-based industries. Aston Science Park "should prove to be the touchpaper for a new explosion of technical skills in the city," he said.

The Tory administration's rate-cutting zeal has put pressure on the Labour group over its policies. The group is not slow to take part in the usual ideological jousting and protests vigorously about cuts in services. In reality, however, there is a considerable degree of bipartisanship. It says it will not exceed the Government's spending target and has supported job creating activities. It is also committed to the

convention centre, "provided the finance is available".

One scheme in which the council played a dual role with the private sector is well off the ground. The city and Lloyds Bank each put up £1m and with the University of Aston has created the Aston Science Park.

The University of Birmingham, with city help, has also created its own Institute of Research and Development to improve and extend the "technological transfer" between university and industry.

Last year created a development and promotion unit, with a budget of £2m a year and staff of 16, to dovetail its numerous economic initiatives into a

clear, concerted drive. A convention and visitor bureau is in operation to develop and promote the city's increasingly keen interest in lucrative "business tourism".

While the council seeks EEC aid for the convention centre and the science park, it is still at odds with the Government over regional policy. The imaginative and enterprising Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce best sums up the local attitude: The West Midlands should be able to compete for investment on equal terms with areas elsewhere in Britain whose unemployment levels are actually lower, but as long as the Government is committed to an

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BIRMINGHAM - THE BIG HEART OF ENGLAND

City of Birmingham Development & Promotion Unit

No failures accepted in the hothouse at Aston Park

Aston Science Park, which nurtures the high technology ideas of budding entrepreneurs through research into commercial marketability, has been open just over a year. Nine tenants occupy about one third of the 50,000 square feet of "incubator" units in phase one of the 27 acre development. Two more are expected next month on the site, which is adjacent to the University of Aston, Britain's largest technological university which contains the largest business school in Europe.

Companies will be made or broken in the testing "hothouse" atmosphere of the park. Although it exists to ease the creation of a new enterprise, those whose ideas do not work will be asked to leave, to be

replaced by others anxious, perhaps even desperate, to grasp the extensive facilities and help the park offers.

Birmingham Technology, the science park management company, calls itself a venture capitalist. It was formed through a partnership of Birmingham City Council and Lloyds Bank, which each put up £1m, and the University of Aston itself. A further capital development fund of £2.9m is earmarked for expansion.

Birmingham Technology, through the park, offers fledgling companies a range of business support services not likely to be found outside a well-established and successful enterprise, including plush conference rooms, telex and audio visual aids, secretarial service

and press and public relations. These normally expensive trappings, though, are unlikely to make the difference between success and failure of a new company. More important is that Birmingham Technology offers access to its venture capital fund to help new companies get off the ground.

The park offers close and vital links with the university's management school and research facilities and academic staffs. Lack of cash, management experience and R and D can kill a company at birth.

The science park idea is not new. Mr Harry Nicholls, the park's chief executive, said: "It took the industrial science park at Stanford in California about 30 years from its conception as a research institute to have any

major successes. We do not want people to judge us now, but to come back in a few years and see what we have done."

Failures are expected. "The failures are likely to come before the successes," Mr Nicholls said. "We have to have the courage to work through that and have faith in what we are doing. The city always saw this as having a 10 to 15 year horizon. If an idea is not working, we will let the people know and somebody else can have a try."

"A science park is the ultimate development in action learning. It only began to dawn on Birmingham industry in the last few years that its prosperity of the last 40 years was not automatic. The city has now got a technology and enterprise gap and if we can create one small spot of success, then perhaps it will have a ripple effect."

"We are trying to break down the barriers between our entrepreneurs and the universities so that businessmen can make good use of university facilities, particularly those for research. Many British graduates think only of working for a large company, not for themselves."

"As they see examples of high technology entrepreneurs down here doing work that is still challenging and makes money, then perhaps we will build that idea into their thought processes."

Ideally, up to 25 small companies would occupy incubator units at the park, though space must be left for individual enterprises to expand. A typical company might spend two or three years in the first phase of the development, housed in a superbly refurbished, 100-year-old former factory warehouse.

Perhaps after that the strengthening company could move into one of the larger, but still flexible, "venture units" which are planned alongside. After a period of around five years the successful company would be expected to move out of the park to its own premises.



Harry Nicholls, chief executive of Aston Science Park: "see what we have done"

Mr Nicholls believes that those who favoured a green field site for the science park rather than a development in Birmingham inner city a mile from the centre were wrong.

Aston Science Park is within minutes of the banking, accounting and legal services a new company needs, and is alongside both the management school and university research teams who work with the fledgling enterprises.

More recently the University of Birmingham has formed its own company to market the expertise and ideas of its research teams and to give entrepreneurs and industry the opportunity to work closely with academics. The company

will operate the university's new institute of research and development.

Professor John Samuels, Pro vice chancellor and chairman of the institute, said: "It is designed for small and medium sized companies who want to take their research through to the development stage and perhaps to the prototype stage and they will be able to work on campus with academics. We have lots of ideas and industry knows how to develop them."

A number of companies already are associated with the institute, including one formed by members of the university's medical school to manufacture anti-sera.

C.S.

The rise of Tom Davenport

Less than two years ago Tom Davenport was redundant and a building society was pressing him hard for repayments on his mortgage. Today, he runs his own business, designing computer-aided engineering systems in the "incubator" atmosphere of Aston Science Park, employs nine people and expects to have a turnover of £250,000 next year.

Davenport Computer Systems is one of nine small companies using the facilities at the science park. Tom, a physics and engineering graduate, was made redundant by Dunlop, where he worked on computer-aided en-



Tom Davenport: a turnover of £250,000

gineering. He persuaded the company to fork out £12,000 to fund his own work on a computer system for designing tennis rackets, a system he realized had much wider applications.

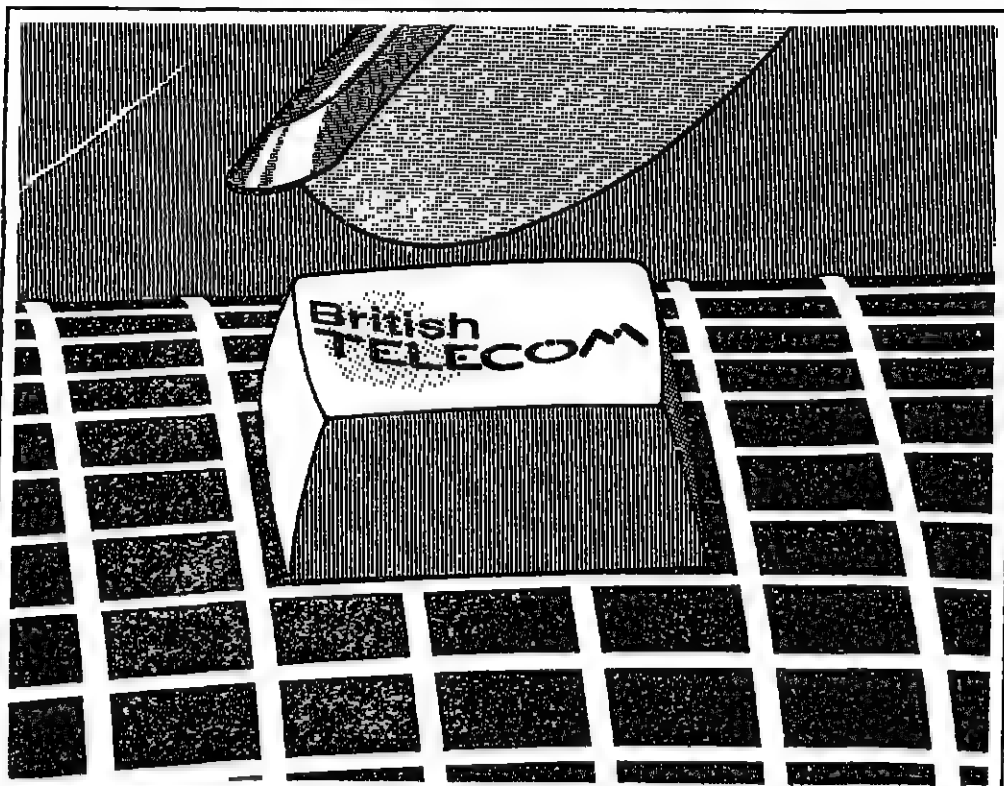
After working in a back-bedroom of his home, he formed his own company in May last year and moved into the science park where he now employs six full-time staff and three part-time, including an Aston university student who undertakes research. Tom and his staff put together computer systems for

all types of manufacturing and also run training sessions. Although he did not need help from the park's venture capital fund, Tom says that the facilities and advice at the park were invaluable. "To start with, the name of the park really has some clout and it brought people to us who otherwise would not have come. The science park ethos will spread, I am sure."

The other companies resident at the park are PH Marshall, designing and manufacturing high technology quality control inspection systems; Techsonix (UK), developing and marketing a sonic digitizer system; Occupational Services, researching and developing techniques of selection and training to help mobility to new job areas; Aston Technology, which has commenced British assembly operations for a new 68,000 based microcomputer product range; Tradewinner Systems, designing software systems for industry; Micro Modular Technology, the hardware distribution arm of Tradewinner; APL+Plus, marketing computer software, and Condensing Boilers, which is developing a domestic heating system.

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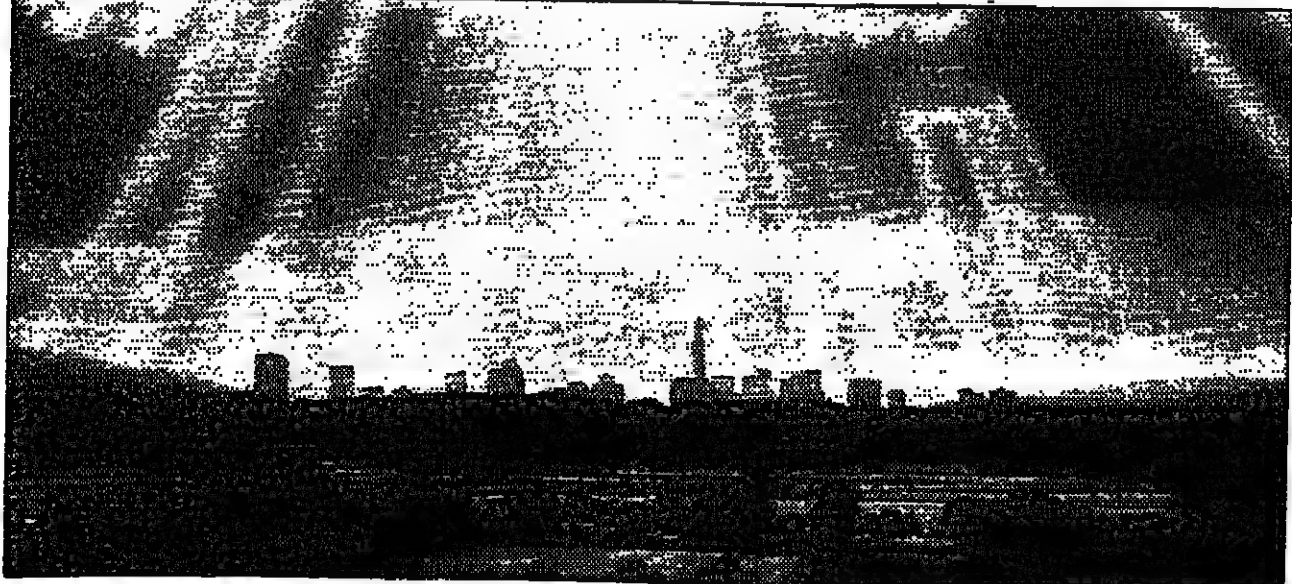
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BIRMINGHAM—THE BIG HEART OF ENGLAND

Birmingham Convention & Visitor Bureau

Big vote of confidence



Q. Which of the following organisations is most concerned now, about the development of the West Midlands area—the Government, the employers, the TUC, or the West Midlands County Council?

A: Emphatically, the West Midlands County Council!

It was far and away the most popular answer in a recent NOP poll. West Midlandsers of all ages, and of many different walks of life feel that the Council contributes more to the region's future economic

development than any other single group or body.

This big thumbs-up from the people comes at a time when the Council is more active than ever in its efforts to promote jobs in the region.

The West Midlands Campaign for Jobs is well underway, with a series of practical initiatives all directly geared to saving or creating jobs.

If you'd like to know more about the schemes which are part of the County Council's Campaign for Jobs, ring 021-300 6666.

*Quota sample West Midlands, December 1983. 14 sampling points.



**West Midlands
County Council**

The West Midlands Campaign for Jobs

Moving into the lead as the telecom capital

Birmingham is rapidly developing into Britain's "telecommunications capital" - a point promoted vigorously by those trying to attract new businesses to the city.

The second city is already the best-served telecommunications centre outside London. British Telecom is offering an extensive range of services in the province, and good communications with the capital, and the city is to be the hub of the Mercury communications network.

Still a major engineering and manufacturing centre, Birmingham is developing into other business activities stimulated by the National Exhibition Centre and other developments within the city. All the major clearing banks have a strong presence in the city, and Standard, Chartered and County Bank is among the merchant banks represented. Overseas banks have been attracted, and the United States banks have also been active.

The financial community has shown itself to be light on its feet, parrying the blows of the recession and restructuring itself for the better days ahead.

John Rice, assistant director of Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce, said the banking and financial community had seen the long-term prospects of Birmingham and the rest of the West Midlands as being more than just encouraging.

"The last few years have seen a steady, if undramatic, growth in the number of foreign banks that have moved into Birmingham", he said.

"Birmingham is undoubtedly now the second major financial centre in the United Kingdom, and we are looking forward confidently to the arrival of even more overseas financial institutions."

David Drake, newly appointed regional director for Lloyds Bank, said it was trying to play a part in the regeneration of Birmingham. Lloyds has invested in Birmingham Technology, which runs Aston Science Park.

Mr Drake said: "A slight improvement in the economic prospects for the region showed up to us last October, and significantly it has not gone away. We are quietly optimistic about the prospects for the next two or three years, although it will be a while before companies begin investing in fixed assets."

Lloyds Bank started in Birmingham in 1765. "We see ourselves very much as a Birmingham bank", Mr Drake said.

The clearing banks are starting to introduce CHAPS, the electronic same-day settlement system, and Mr Drake said this had been received enthusiastically by multinationals operating in the city. "For all practical purposes, Birmingham is as good as London for business houses dealing in Britain", Mr Drake said.

Overseas banks have seen the potential of Birmingham as an international banking centre, and those in the city include Banque Nationale de Paris, the longest established French bank in the country.



David Drake of Lloyds Bank with a bust of the bank's founder Charles Lloyd. 'Birmingham will be regenerated'

Manufacturing firms in the Midlands looked to the merchant banks for their expertise in handling financial transactions with firms abroad. They wanted someone nearer than London. Mr Mortimer said: "They did not mind the bank being in London when everything went smoothly, but they wanted someone in their own city to turn to when, as increasingly happens when you start exporting, things begin to go wrong."

The heart of Birmingham's financial life is its Stock Exchange - the only one in the country where visitors can walk around the trading floor. It was founded in 1845 during the railway boom which led to the opening of stock exchanges outside London. The strong entrepreneurial spirit of Birmingham people sent them scrambling for a share in the railway companies.

Revived asset

The railway boom quickly faded, but it left Birmingham with the asset of the Stock Exchange, which was revived by the new bicycle industry in the 1890s. The birth of the motor industry which followed was to play a vital part in the development of all Birmingham's financial institutions.

Birmingham has been an important insurance centre since the middle of the nineteenth century, when Britannic Assurance and Wesleyan and General started up in the city, and have kept their headquarters there ever since.

Britannic is one of Britain's big five insurance groups, and this summer it embarks on its most ambitious promotional campaign since it was founded

in 1866. For the next three years it will sponsor the county cricket championship.

Like the Prudential, Britannic started as a home service company, selling policies direct to families and sending a man round once a week to collect the premium. Britannic still sees home service (or "industrial insurance") as the basis of its business, and has an army of 3,000 full-time reps. It still gives a personal service and does not deal through brokers, but has now developed into a full range of insurance services.

The city also has its own building society which, since a merger with a West Country rival two years ago, has been the Birmingham and Bridgwater. Many Birmingham people spend holidays and weekends in the West Country and often retire there, so there are strong links between the two regions.

Mr Michael O'Neill, general manager since the merger, says the advantage of a smaller society is that it can make decisions more quickly than large ones, and its senior staff is more accessible.

All the major building societies have a strong presence

21 missions produce £6.6m in orders

● Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce, formed in 1813, is the largest chamber outside London and represents about 4,000 companies. Since 1965 it has organized about 300 outward trade missions to most parts of the world. According to information given in the House of Commons, the chamber's 21 missions in 1982 and in the first half of 1983 reported £6.6m in orders taken and £1.4m as potential follow-up business.

in Birmingham, with offices in the suburbs reflecting the trend for families to shop more often near their homes instead of travelling to the centre.

Placed as it is in the centre of England, Birmingham has obvious geographical advantages. Partly for this reason - and also because of major Birmingham firms like Lucas and the Austin Rover Group - it is developing into the most sophisticated

telecommunications centre outside London.

Walsall and Brownhills, towns to the north of Birmingham, were the first to have a fibre optic link installed by British Telecom, which two years ago opened the longest such link - between Birmingham and London. The link (strands of high quality glass thinner than a human hair) carry telephone conversations between Birmingham businesses and the capital, with a high quality of sound and no chance of a crossed line.

Flexibility of a different kind will be offered by Mercury, the private communications company granted a licence to compete with BT. Birmingham will be at the centre of Mercury's "figure-of-eight" communications links, stretching down to London and Bristol in the south, and north to Manchester and other centres.

BT expects some firms to put 30 per cent of its telecommunications business with Mercury - but BT expects to remain the dominant force.

Tony Willard

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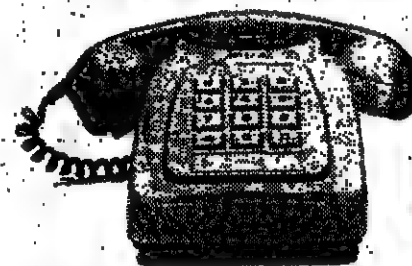
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A conventional pride

The £50m National Exhibition Centre, opened eight years ago, has cost Birmingham people only £1 per head per year, its promoters are fond of saying. Moreover, they say, it makes a profit and pumps about £80m a year into the local economy.

The boast that the NEC has confounded the critics who warned that a major exhibition centre outside London could not work is likely to be heard with increasing frequency in the corridors of Birmingham City Council, which put up the original cash.

That is because the council is pushing ahead with another ambitious plan - an international convention-centre for Birmingham costing about £121m. Three quarters of the cost, about £90m, will be met by the city council and the remainder is to come from the private sector.

The Labour group on the Tory-controlled council say they will go ahead with the convention centre "provided the finance is available." As they may take control of the city council in the May elections their view is crucial. But in a city that has prided itself on its rate-cutting budgets, there is still some worry that a £90m investment by the authority in such a scheme could overstretch resources.

Council leaders also dismiss suggestions that an international convention centre would take business away from the NEC, which was designed specifically for larger exhibitions, trade shows and product launches in its 100,000 square metres of space.

The convention centre will be specifically designed to handle meetings of less than 4,000 or 5,000 and already its promoters have their eyes on study group, small company and international society meetings, many of them held for numbers of less than 1,000.

Mr Philippe Taylor is chief executive of the Birmingham

Convention and Visitor Bureau which was set up out of a partnership between city and private groups catering for business meetings and travel.

He estimates that business tourism is already worth about £160m a year to the local economy, most of it from the NEC, and believes there is plenty of opportunity to bring additional cash into the area through the convention centre.

If all goes according to plan, its construction would start next year and the city is looking for a completion date in 1989. Mr Taylor estimates that up to 80 per cent of British conference business is made up of meetings of less than 500 people and that the centre will be in an ideal position to compete for such gatherings.

Just as the NEC made its enemies in snatching lucrative exhibitions and shows from other centres and still pitches hard for more, the convention centre will compete ruthlessly and certain British cities and towns after the same business are well aware of the threat looming large on the horizon.

Mr Taylor said: "Birmingham is probably the one local authority in Britain with the biggest capital stake in business tourism."

The city was now aiming to increase its share of meetings of international associations and study groups, such as the International Society of Physiological Sciences, which has 1,500 delegates from all over the world, the International Association of Radiological Societies and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The NEC now has land available to expand by 50 per cent to about 150,000 square metres its floor space when the economic climate and incoming business dictate. The NEC attracts about 2.5m visitors a year, but it wants many more.

C.S.

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CENTRAL

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

A precedent is set for deferred tax treatment

The case for a cautious view of the banks because of the tax changes affecting their leasing business was reinforced by Standard Chartered's results yesterday. Standard has decided to make full provision for British deferred tax arising from leasing in its accounts after allowing for a 35 per cent corporation tax rate; the result is a £36m extraordinary charge. The Standard board clearly believes it will have to pay all the deferred tax piled up in its balance sheet, at some stage in the future, albeit at a lower corporation tax rate. Leasing has not been such an important tax shelter for Standard Chartered as it was for the big clearing banks, but it is hard to see how they can now logically reach a different conclusion about deferred tax liabilities. National Westminster, for instance, shares an auditor with Standard Chartered in the form of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

If the clearers take the same line it would mean extraordinary provisions in the order of £1 to £1.5 billion, which would have a damaging effect on balance sheet ratios. Rights issues would surely follow. It is not surprising that Standard & Poor's, the US credit rating agency, has put Barclays, Midland and National Westminster on its Creditwatch list, which indicates there could be a change in their credit ratings.

At least one of the big four is at present veering to the view that the extra provisions might be spread over several years, which would certainly soften the blow. And the stock market is divided between those who think the gloom has been overdone and those who believe the full impact has yet to sink in. The first indication of how the clearers intend to tackle the problem seems unlikely to emerge before their annual meetings.

On the look-out for an ill wind

Pity the mortals charged with overseeing the Government's monetary targets. On the first of days they must be searching the skies for signs of an impending storm. Though on the face of it the Government's new target bands for broad and narrow

money look eminently achievable, those professional pessimists in the Treasury and the Bank of England are already on the lookout for clouds.

On the international side, the United States is the main worry. While it is fashionable to talk of "decoupling" British interest rates from the Americans, there is a limit to how far this can go without upsetting sterling and dulling the market's appetite for government stock. The chief instrument for keeping broad money growth within bounds. At the very least, events across the Atlantic threaten to put a floor on rates, here at close to present levels. On the domestic side, the chief concern is bank lending to the private sector - and more particularly the personal sector - which has been the key determinant of broad money growth over the past couple of years.

The latest analysis of bank lending by the Bank of England is tantalizingly opaque on what is happening now, because definitional changes have made comparisons with previous figures unreliable.

The encouraging news is that personal lending is not accelerating and may be slowing down. In the three months to mid-February lending for house purchase (not seasonally adjusted) rose £534m (4 per cent) about two-thirds the typical increase last year. Lending for other items rose by £516m (4 per cent), also rather less than last year. Nevertheless, consumer borrowing from banks is expected to stay fairly buoyant in the coming months.

The less welcome news, for the monetary guardians, is that there appears to have been a pickup in lending to manufacturing after a year in which industry actually repaid bank debt. (However, of the £930m - 5 per cent - increase, an exceptional £440m was in food, drink and tobacco.)

The Government is hoping that cash-rich companies will pay for the expected investment surge this year and next out of their own coffers or will turn to the capital markets, encouraged by the Budget measures. But the effect of suddenly accelerated investment programmes, as companies rush to take advantage of short-lived capital allowances, could yet be good business for the banks.

Fighting over the US tiger

The Distillers Company (DCL) is in the process of buying a drinks distributor in the United States. Arthur Bell & Sons, its much smaller, Scotch whisky competitor, has just bought one. Both may be climbing astride a tiger. For DCL, the purchase of Somerset Importers for an expected price of \$300m is essentially a defensive move, despite the fact that it is the company's first big corporate takeover in years.

Somerset already distributes and largely relies for its profits on DCL's Johnnie Walker Red and Black Labels. This exclusive contract is up for review in the summer and Somerset is for sale following the takeover of its parent group last summer.

But Arthur Bell's purchase of Wellington Importers for \$16.5m is a highly ambitious move. DCL brands collectively dominate the giant if mature US Scotch whisky market. Arthur Bell, which dominates the home market, has in the words of its chairman, Mr Raymond Miguel, "a 0.00001 per cent share in the US" and wants much more.

Mr Miguel is as ambitious for growth there as he was in Britain 10 years ago. Half-year figures from his company yesterday show why. Pretax profits are once again up - from £17.6m to £19.1m - and in the second half the group expects to make more than the £13.7m it recorded last time. The interim dividend is being increased by 12 per cent to 1.4p.

But despite the undoubted quality of Arthur Bell management and a constant marketing drive that would exhaust most of its competitors, Arthur Bell's growth both at home and in established export markets is clearly slowing down.

At home the group claims to have held volume sales during the second half of last year, it also claims to have held its market share at something over 20 per cent, despite the Johnnie Walker Red Label relaunch.

Exports, on the other hand, fell by 4 per cent.

There is strong reason for both Bell's and DCL's plans in the United States, but neither can be awarded points for it. Any downward movement in the dollar will eat deep into Scotch profit margins and could force price increases with a knock-on effect on volumes. The health lobby in the United States is beginning to turn its attentions to hard liquor, and it is uncertain what the long-term effect of any concerted campaign would be.

Far more serious, however, is the possibility that Federal excise tax on spirits will be raised substantially for the first time in more than 30 years. It is election year so it is unlikely to happen until 1985. Some have suggested it will then double as one way of reducing the budget deficit. This would be extremely serious for DCL and would stop in its tracks any marketing drive that Bell launches. Bell believes that the maximum likely rise is 30 per cent. DCL must be hoping it is right.

Time to clarify takeover code

The Takeover Panel, in preparing its new simplified rule book, should do at least two things: rationalize regulations governing substantial acquisitions of shares and simplify the rules for raising a bidder's stake from 30 per cent to over 50 per cent in a takeover battle. Both are complex and confusing, and now largely redundant.

The rules on substantial share acquisitions were introduced by the Council for the Securities Industry to deal with "dawn raids". Originally, a predator could buy up to 30 per cent of a company in one market swoop. The most famous dawn raid was Mr Harry Oppenheimer's purchase of 30 per cent of Consolidated Gold Fields. Today the limit is 15 per cent initially. All purchases thereafter are also regulated.

Debt-laden Bowater spins off US business with cash call

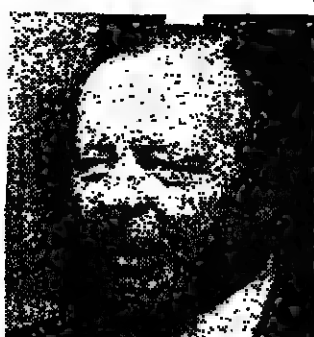
By Philip Robinson

Bowater Corporation, once Britain's premier newsprint company, yesterday announced it was spinning off its North American print and pulp business into a separate company, to be quoted on Wall Street.

The announcement accompanied a one-for-eight rights issue at 215p to raise \$41m, and news that pretax profits for the year to end December rose by almost a third to \$40m.

Dr Ingram Lenton, the managing director who will also succeed Lord Erroll of Hale as chairman on completion of the North American demerger, made it clear that the British end of Bowater would become aggressive predators on completion of the deal.

Bowater itself has been tipped as a takeover target for three years. Retained profits and patchy trading failed to feed the cash-hungry North American newspaper operation, and as a result dividends were cut and



Lord Erroll: Stepping down as chairman

borrowings pushed to a record 80 per cent of shareholders' funds last year.

North America needs to spend \$40m (£310m) on capital equipment over the next three years. Demerging the operation from London will give the British arm almost £100m in assets, trade-mark sales and dividend agreements with the new North American company.

The demerger, with proceeds from the rights issue, will bring to Bowater in Britain £140m, to reduce debts and pay for expansion.

The Bowater Corporation will be split between Bowater Inc and Bowater Industries. Bowater Inc will be floated on Wall Street at a price between \$18 and \$22 a share, giving it a market capitalization of between \$525m and \$620m.

The capital structure will mean that 25 per cent of the shares of Bowater Inc will be in fresh capital of between \$130m and \$160m, and the remainder will be distributed to existing Bowater Corporation shareholders, probably on the basis of one new Bowater Inc share for every ten already held.

Completion of the demerger will reduce debts of Bowater Industries from £261m to £35m.

Dr Lenton said the Bowater Corporation had fought its way through a recession and "I believe we are winning". Bowater made pretax profits

in the year to December of £40m, against £30.2m last time on sales which rose from £1.86 billion to £1.62 billion. However, it has written off £95.2m below the line in anticipated losses of companies which will be closed or sold. As a result, £67.9m has been transferred from reserves to meet a total payout unchanged at 7.75p.

A profits breakdown for the two separate companies shows that Bowater Inc's group trading profits on pulp, paper and timber has gone from an annual £47.6m to £60.1m in the five years to the end of 1983, with almost 70 per cent of sales and operating profit coming from newsprint.

Trading profits of Bowater Industries, which includes packaging, tissue products, building products, merchant paper and pulp have gone from an annual £51.3m to £51.4m over the same period.

In the stock market yesterday the shares rose 22p to 300p at one point before closing at 294p.

AT & T to join world market

From Nick Gilbert, New York

AT&T, the US telecommunications company, yesterday announced its long-awaited entry into the worldwide computer market.

The company is offering six models including desk-top supermicro computer.

It is leading manufacturer of computers in the US, based on its UNIX operating system, but sales have been restricted to the Bell system telephone companies.

But AT&T was divested of its US operating companies from January 1 this year. The company is now free to sell computers worldwide and is set to challenge IBM and Digital Equipment.

According to AT&T's vice-chairman, Mr James Olson, the company will be tackling the European market, including the British, in conjunction with Olivetti.

AT&T took a large stake in the Italian company three months ago in order to compete in the rapidly-growing market for office automation products.

Mr Olson said: "Our pricing strategy is simple. We aim to match or beat the industry's prices. Initially, AT&T will be selling its computer range to original equipment manufacturers for resale and to a limited number of large end users."

But Mr Olson said: "We plan to move as fast as we can to make our products available to all types of customers."

The AT&T UNIX-based products are aimed at a part of the information market which is expected to produce a revenue of \$7 billion by 1986.

Record BAe £82m disappoints the City

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

Record profits from British Aerospace and a generally bullish statement from the "chairman", Sir Austin Pearce, still failed to live up to the City's expectations yesterday. BAe's shares fell by 9p to 225p after the company's full-year results for 1983 showed pretax profits of £82.3m, some way short of market hopes for £90m.

A year ago BAe took the City aback with a £15.3m pretax loss, following a one-off provision of £100m to cover potential future losses on its civil aviation programme. Since then the shares, first sold to the public at 150p in February 1981, as part of the Government's privatisation programme, have rallied sharply.

Sir Austin said last year was good overall, with turnover up 12 per cent, exports up 7.5 per cent and the order-book up by 16 per cent. There were "a lot of reasons to be optimistic for the future".

Cash flow was positive by a small margin last year and the balance sheet was still liquid, he said. The final dividend is being increased by just under 8 per cent, to 9.1p share.

unchanged at £12m after

redundancy and reorganization costs of £33.7m, more than double the 1982 figure. The underlying improvement in operating profit was about 12 per cent, while written-off launch costs amounted to £42.6m (£49.2).

BAe expects to cut its workforce by another 2,000 this year, to 75,500. Sir Austin said he hoped to announce more orders for the short-haul 100-seater model 146 airliner shortly. A government decision on a new trainer aircraft for the RAF, in which BAe is interested, is not however expected until next year.

The £100m civil aviation provision, intended to cover several years, was left unchanged.

BAe denied reports that it would be harmed by Budget changes on capital allowances and stock relief. Taking the abolition of the national insurance surcharge into account, it expects to be better off over the next three years.

The government decision to back the A320 Airbus and BAe's advanced turboprop jet had completed the company's said.

Debts drain on Standard Chartered

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Financial Correspondent

Heavy bad debt provisions in Hongkong and a disappointing performance from commercial banking branches in Britain trimmed profits growth at Standard Chartered Bank last year.

Pretax profits rose from £242m to £268m, less than expected, and there was also some disappointment in the stock market at the size of the dividend. An 18.5p final left the year's dividends 3.7 per cent higher at 28p.

Bad debt provisions were up from £83m to £134m. The specific provision for clearly identified problems was up from £70m to £108m, while general provisions doubled to £26m.

The group is hopeful that bad debts will fall this year, and apart from some reservations about South Africa is generally more optimistic.

Hongkong branches slipped from profits of around £30m to break even after setting aside about £20m of bad debt provisions. This largely reflected customers' involvement in the property market, and over big textile group.

Index falls 14.6 points

Shares fell over a wide front yesterday with the FT 30 share index suffering its worst reverse for seven months. It lost 14.6 points to 875 points as markets worried about this week's sudden flood of rights issues and the continuing possibility of cash-consuming Government privatization moves.

Sharply improved profits from some of our top companies failed to steady the market and profit takers decided to cash in some of the gains they scored in the recent share upsurge.

Only one FT 30 share constituent, Bowater, made progress.

The selling gusher pace as the day progressed. At the first count the FT index was off - just 0.2 points at 889.4.

Market report, page 24

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1101.9 down 17.6 High: 1117.3 Low: 1099.9
FT index: 875.0 down 14.6
FT 30: 86.21 up 0.02
Bargains: 28.885
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 134.08 down 0.1
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1151.70 down 1.25
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10,528.36 up 44.63
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 1131.25 down 25.70
Amsterdam: 167.3 down 0.3
Sydney: AO Index: 736.2 up 4.0
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 1024.2 down 5.1
Buenos Aires: General Index: 146.32 up 2.52
Paris: CAC Index: 162.5 down 0.6
Zurich: SCA General: 305.40 up 1.40

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4560 up 1.10 cents
Index 80.3 unchanged
DM 3.7550 down 0.01
FF 11.56 down 0.03
Yen 225.50 up 0.50
Dollar
Index 125.9 down 0.02
DM 2.6042 down 0.0193
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4525
Dollar DM 2.5820

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 8%
Finance houses base rate 9%
Discount market loans week fixed 8%
3 month interbank 8 1/4-8 1/2%
Eurocurrency rates:
3 month dollar 10 1/2-10%
3 month DM 5 1/2-5%
3 month FF 15-14 1/4 US rates
Bank prime rate 11.50
Fed funds 9%
Treasury long bond 9 1/2-9 3/4%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period November 1983 up 1/2 per cent

Profits soar at Delta

Delta Group, the Midlands engineering concern, reported a jump in pretax profits to £32m (£14m) for the year to end December. Earnings per share rose just under 10p to 13p, and a recommended dividend of 1.93p brings the year's total payment to 3.75p (3.40).

Tempus, page 24
Reckitt & Coleman, the food, household products and pharmaceuticals group, increased pretax profits to £88.7m for 1983, on turnover of £981m, up from £81.25m in 1982. A dividend of 7.85p makes a total of 12.4 for the year (10.75p). Tempus, page 24

Octopus, Mr Paul Hamlyn's book publishing company floated on the stock market a year ago, reported pretax profits for the year to end December from £4.8m to £6.3m. A dividend of 6p is recommended, making a total for the year of 9p. Tempus, page 24

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$389.10 pm \$388.85
close \$388.75-\$389.25 (£267-£267.50)
New York (latest): \$387.45

NEWS IN BRIEF

Order near for Harland

Harland and Wolff, the state-owned Belfast shipbuilder, is confident of winning a £50m order for two of its newly designed, automated container ships from the Lykes Brothers Steamship Company in the United States.

Lykes signed a letter of intent to buy the pair in London yesterday, and took an option for four others.

Clyde Petroleum claims it is close to a deal worth more than £160m with British Gas to buy the Wytch Farm offshore oilfield in Dorset, and that what is needed is the Government's political will. Clyde reported profits of £10.09m for 1983. The board is recommending a dividend of 0.9075p.

Testing started yesterday on the third well drilled by Gulf Oil in the Celtic Sea, renewing speculation in Ireland that block 49/9, 20 miles off Wexford, could be viable commercially. The results are expected next month.

Regan urges Fed to sustain growth

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary, yesterday urged the Federal Reserve Board to supply sufficient money to the economy to sustain growth, at the 4.3 per cent rate which is expected by the Administration.

Mr Regan, mirroring the increasing concern of White House officials, said that despite stronger-than-expected growth in the first quarter of 7.2 per cent, the US economy was not overheating and should not be reined in by the central bank. He issued his appeal at a

special White House briefing, as the powerful Open Market Committee of the central bank met, only several streets away, to take decisions on US monetary strategy over the next several weeks.

White House officials, concerned by the rise in interest rates and the nervous performance of financial markets, feared that the central bank planned to take a decision to check growth in the weeks ahead to avoid a resurgence of inflation.

Firms face inflation rule

By Ian Griffiths

All public limited companies will be forced to disclose inflation accounting information in their annual reports if the Accounting Standards Committee approves a draft statement of intent at today's meeting.

The statement of intent proposes a new accounting standard which will require companies to disclose information about the impact of inflation on their results in a note to the accounts.

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From March 28th, Hutton's service to clients will be enhanced by the addition of a new member of our staff, Mr. John J. Hutton, Jr., who will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the London office. Mr. Hutton is a former member of the New York Stock Exchange and has extensive experience in the U.S. market.

For more information, contact E.F. Hutton at 100 Broad Street, London EC4A 3DF. Tel: 01-409 3444/0318.

Snow slows BCA profits

By Jonathan Clare

Heavy snow in northern Britain and the northern states of America hit profits at Mr David Wickins' British Car Auctions much harder than expected.

Profits in the first half were up by two-fifths, from £2.2m to more than £3m, and the interim dividend has been increased by 10 per cent to 1.1p.

But Mr Wickins said: "Although these may look satisfactory, personally I am slightly disappointed. One of the few things that can upset the smooth running of our auctions is snow, and this winter has been a pretty bad one from that point of view."

However, he expects a good second half, as business missed

because of poor weather has not necessarily been lost. "Motor vehicles for sale built up and eventually have to be sold."

Turnover of the group, which is to open another auction site in Preston this month, jumped from £233m to £459m, helped by the expanding US business which is now under centralized management.

Attwoods, the former Wolverhampton car dealers where Mr Wickins is also chairman and where BCA has a large stake, increased its half-year profits from £330,000 to £591,000, mainly from sand and gravel extraction interests.

Mr Denis Thatcher, the Prime Minister's husband, is on

the board of Attwoods. His son, Mr Mark Thatcher, has just been appointed to a £45,000-a-year job with a Lotus associate in the US. Mr Wickins is chairman of Group Lotus, in which BCA has a large shareholding.

The interim dividend at Attwoods has been maintained at 1p on the doubled share capital after last year's scrip issue.

EF Phillips, acquired last June, has been rationalized to cut overheads and is now contributing to profits. Mr Wickins promises "a substantial improvement" on last year's profits of £1m. Turnover in the first six months was up from £4.3m to £4.9m.

Booker improves by 30%

By Christopher Dunn

Booker McConnell, one of Britain's largest conglomerates, yesterday reported a 30 per cent jump in pretax profits to £22m for the year ended December 31.

Earnings per share came out at 12.1p (up from 9.97p) and the group is increasing the total dividend for the year from 3.75p to 4.3p, an improvement of nearly 15 per cent. The shares were unchanged on news of the annual figures at 113p.

Group sales exceeded £1 billion pounds during 1983 for the first time, and Booker ended the year with a net surplus of

funds of £14.7m, compared with net borrowings of £12.1m at the end of 1982.

Booker's largest division, agriculture, produced nearly doubled profits for the year to £6.4m (£3.4m), while food distribution also managed a healthy gain in profits, from £1.2m to £4.2m. Health products generated £3m (£2.2m), and spirits and liquors, and shipping both showed slight downturns in profits.

The picture of group profits was distorted by acquisitions and disposals.

Standard Chartered

Standard Chartered Bank PLC

1983 RESULTS

The Directors announce the results of Standard Chartered Group for 1983 as follows:

	1983 £ million	1982 £ million
Trading profit	275.5	244.3
Bank and subsidiaries	32.3	34.6
Share of associated companies	307.8	278.9
Interest on subordinated loan capital	39.7	36.9
Profit before taxation	268.1	242.0
Taxation	110.9	97.8
Minority interests	43.5	30.2
Profit before extraordinary items	113.7	114.0
Extraordinary items	(24.3)	(1.2)
Profit attributable to members of the Bank	89.4	112.8
Dividends: Interim	14.8	11.9
Final	28.7	23.1
Profit retained	45.9	77.8
Earnings per share	77.1p	85.7p

DIVIDEND: The Directors will recommend at the Annual General Meeting on the 10th May 1984, a final dividend of 18.5 pence per share, making a total distribution for 1983 of 28 pence per share. The final dividend will be paid on the 18th May 1984, to shareholders on the Register on the 19th April 1984.

P.J. SPOONER
Secretary

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Brent Chemicals ahead

The American recession, particularly in the aerospace industry, remained a drag on profits at Brent Chemicals International last year. But overall group profits were up from £3.4m to £4m despite poor trading in most markets until the last three months.

Gearing has been reduced further from the 20 per cent seen half way, to 8 per cent. The total dividend for the year is 2.8p against 2.5p last time.

● **JOHNSON GRP CLEANERS:** Fifty-three weeks to December 31, 1983 (£2.5m). Second interest (10.5p) confirmed as final 9.24p making 12.24p (10.5p). Figures in £000. The group turnover £6,989 (£6,731). Trading profit 6,748 (£6,759) being dry cleaning 5,364 (£4,635) and textile rental 1,384 (£1,124). Pretax profit 6,305 (£5,868). After interest £49 (£499). Exceptional div 21 (£42).

● **WESTERN MINING CORP:** The corporation has been advised by BP Australia of BP's intention to withdraw from the Stuart Shelf exploration joint venture in South Australia on September 9.

● **F & C ELTROTRUST:** The company expects 1984 will be a satisfactory year for European stock markets so long as the governments continue to pursue sound monetary policies. Continental investors are increasingly turning to equities in preference to bonds.

● **ENIAP:** The Fast Midland Allied Press has confirmed the acquisition of the entire issued share capital of Choice Publications (a private company) and its subsidiary, Requirement Choice Magazine Company and the Over Fifty Club, with effect from December 21, 1983. The consideration is £1,071,734.

● **LEP GROUP:** LEP has agreed to acquire a significant interest in the National Guardian Corporation which is based in Stamford, Connecticut, USA. Completion is expected to take place by the end of the week.

● **NISSON GROUP:** Results for 1983. A capital reorganization will be put to shareholders in May to enable the payment of dividends to be renewed in due course. Figs in £000. Turnover 51,937 (£52,554). Trading profit 4,210 (£4,467). Interest 1,173 (£1,159). Pretax profit 3,037 (£3,308).

● **N M W COMPUTERS:** Results for 1983. Div 3.5p pay May 25 (making 6p 4p). Turnover £3,642m (£2,933m). Trading profit £1,353m (£673,213). Interest receivable £193,376 (£128,258). Pretax profit £1,546 (£851,473).

● **WHITTINGTON INTL:** Div 0.5p for 1983. On increased cap. (0.075p on old cap). Figures in £000. Turnover 2,371 (£392). Gross profit 1,305 (£376). Op expenses 394 (£18). Interest pay 371 (£83). Pretax profit £40 (£79). Tax 39 (£83). Extraord div nil (£3).

● **GRANPIAN HLDS:** Final 3p making 4.5p (same) for 1983. Figs in £000. Turnover 45,584 (£58,071). Trading profit 1,992 (£865). Pretax profit 1,453 (£425). After central costs £39 (£409). Tax 225 (£227). Leaving 1,228 (£198) before minorities. 51 Extraord div 340 (£413).

● **PRESSA HOLDINGS:** Six months to Jan 1, 1984. Interim dividend 0.7p (0.35p). Figures in £000. Turnover 1,531 (£5,806). Pretax profit 1,002 (£123). Tax 393 (£64). Profit attributed 650 (£129). Group results are in line with expectation.

● **W A TZACK:** Interim dividend 0.3p (nil) for half year to

January 31, 1984. Figures in £000. Sales 2,947 (£2,331). Pretax profit 110 (£104). Tax nil (nil). Extraordinary dividend nil (£115). Earnings per share 2.2p (interim 2.82p).

● **RICARDO CONSULTING ENGINEERS:** Int 0.875p adj for cap (same). Pay April 13, revenue six months to December 31, 1983. Figs £000 - 9,058 (£4,935). Pretax profit 552 (£837) and interest 66 (£83). Tax 203. Tax 203 (£299).

● **CAPE INDUSTRIES:** Div 3.9p making 5.6p (5.6p) for 1983. Figs in £000. Turnover 21,094 (£19,601) including discontinued businesses 1,326 (£1,166). Op profit: £778 (£731) being continuing businesses 9,178 (£9,212) and discontinued businesses loss 400 (£104).

● **EQUITY LAW LIFE ASSCO:** CO: Div 17.5p making 22.5p (18.5p) for 1983. At the annual meeting of the board will propose that the present 5p share should be subdivided into five 1p shares. If this proposal is accepted, the recommended final div will be 3.5p per new 1p share.

● **DUFAY BITUMASTIC:** Div 1.6p making 2.6p (2.6p) for 1983. Figs in £000. Sales 15,339 (£13,371). Trading profit 1,084 (£1,021). Interest 184 (£132). Pretax profit 568 (£709). Tax 539 (£134).

● **HEYWOOD WILLIAMS:** Directors D. Scholes and M. R. Broadhead have sold 120,000 and 10,000 ordinary shares respectively.

● **CANNONIC:** Hemons has acquired 620,130 ordinary shares and now holds 430,130 shares (15.27%).

● **TOZER KEMSEY AND MILLBOURN:** J. Stief, director, has disposed of 100,000 ordinary shares at 43p.

This advertisement complies with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange in London



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London EC2R 8HP

28th March 1984

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CRICKET: ENGLAND PARTY RETURN

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Tonight's teams

Rush admitted that "We were dead in the head, our brains were not working and we just didn't seem to settle down." He also conceded that when he did, he failed to convert two relatively simple opportunities. Fagan, who thought that Liverpool were lucky not to be three down by half-time, was merely relieved that it finished as a goalless draw.

Howard Kendall, justifiably

The new survival attempt is an option involving the banks, a new director, Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council and two of the club's former players.

Under the new scheme Robert Maxwell will buy the Baseball Ground for £300,000 from the London, Westminster Bank, who have also agreed to waive a further £50,000 owed by the club. Mike McCarthy, a former director, who recently quit as chairman of

Middlesbrough's crisis talks continued yesterday in a desperate bid to avoid closure. The second division club need to raise £200,000 immediately to meet the demands of creditors. The position of Malcolm Allison, the manager, remains in the balance. He is unhappy over the prospect of losing players to ease crippling debts.

By Peter Marson

second round
GROUP A: St Mary's 1 and St Joseph 18, Queen Elizabeth 6 and 0, Resgate 10, Bishop Ward 0.
GROUP B: Normanston 12, St George's 1, Wenden 6, Plymouth 20, Chichester 2.
GROUP C: Whitehaven 4, St Edmunds 0, Rydal 1, Beverley 12.
GROUP D: Appleforth 18, Kings Worcester 8; Wincoburn 21, Chichester 2, and Sidcup 8.

Since New Year's Eve, their respective form has been remarkably similar. Everton, with 10 victories and two defeats, have collected the equivalent of 40 league points from 22 fixtures. Liverpool, with 11 victories and three defeats, have picked up exactly the same from 21. Both, curiously enough, have scored 34 goals during that period and conceded 15.

Mark one: Hateley celebrates a goal against France.

[illegible]

Mark Halsey, his hair black and slicked back, has perhaps been toughened and made more indomitable by those early inmate days, but his smiling levity betrays a man who knows the value of the importance of education to not being penalized. He is the type who would be a star player on the Bobby Robson's school of excellence at Lilleshal.

Stein waits on the bench

From Clive White, Ronen

Bobby Robson, the England manager, will be looking for triumphant individual performances as much as victory when the England under-21 team play the second leg of their European

yesterday. If it does not respond to treatment, Mabbutt will step in without any discernible loss to the team. However, Mabbutt has not trained or played, because of flu, since last Wednesday.

Walsk, who suffered a partial failure, in the senior game in Paris. In the eyes of some, goes back to the school, as it were, but not to the team. His school-mate has a sore throat but will be among the substitutes.

Hodge, who had such a fine game in the first leg, twisted his ankle during the last seconds of training.

ENGLAND: G. Bailey (Manchester United), M. Steward (Sheff Wednesd), N. Potters (Sheff Wednesd), J. Walters (Preston), J. T. Caten (Arsenal), N. Callaghan (Watford), P. Bracewell (Sunderland), G. Hodge (Sunderland), J. D. Williams (Preston), J. Hosmer, D. Wallace (Southampton), M. Halsey (Prestonport), P. Walsh (Luton Town), Substitutes: J. Anderson (Manchester City), J. Smith (Luton Town), M. Chambers (Stoke City), G. Stevens (Tottenham Hotspur).

UNION

GROUP F: Belmont Abbey 14, Tasker Mildred 14, St. Joseph's Academy 28, Windsor 4.
GROUP G: St. Mary's Liverpool 16, Duke of Devonshire 16, Cambridge 16.
GROUP H: Emanuel 18, Grafton 44, Jedd 32, Gleamers 8.
GROUP I: CWMATWE 22, King Edward VI 6, Strettonhead 16, C of L Freeman 0.
GROUP J: De La Salle 34, Hampden 8.

REGULARS:
GROUP Q: Royal Belfast 18, Strathallen 6, Walsley 8, St. Bernadette 3. Group winners: Royal Belfast.
GROUP R: Pointon 18, Ladbarn Upper 6, Portmarnock 30, Llandowry 0. Group winners: St. Edward's Liverpool.
GROUP S: Manchester 4, St-W Borlase 6, Wm Ellis 6, Thrin 4. Group winner: Manchester.

By Stuart Jones

And although the Irish have beaten England only twice since 1927, they will recall with relish that both of their victories, in 1957 and 1972, took place at Wembley.

Aston Villa were severely reprimanded.

UEFA'S threat

Bern (AP) - In a strongly worded statement issued after a meeting of committee on referees, the European football federation (UEFA) said it will not hesitate to

Blades v Tigers
The draw for the semi-finals of the Associate Members Cup is:
NORTHERN SECTION: Hull v Sheffield United
Sheffers v Burnley
SOUTHERN SECTION: Bournemouth v Ipswich v Southampton or Bristol Rovers; Southampton or Exeter v Millwall or Swindon.
Matches to be played week beginning April

BOXING

Larry Holmes, will defend his International Boxing Federation against the World Boxing Association champion, Gerrie Coetzee of South Africa at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas on June 8.

defensive record

Following specialist advice and X-rays when he returned home a week early from Pakistan, complaining of numbness in his right side and leg, Dilley was advised to have the operation.

Brian Luckhurst, the Kent manager, said yesterday "The news is a tremendous blow both for Dilley and for us. Apparently they

UAE) were the only team certain of a place in the semi-final round of

the second half after Stanfield, their best forward, converted a penalty stroke. This was not the only spot of trouble for Cambridge. In the morning they went down to sales when Heskins scored, but they scored five times in the second

Joseph Garba, the chief delegate of Nigeria and chairman of the committee, commended those in Nigeria who are trying to stop the war. "The special committee has a matter under review and will consider further action if the English

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

LACROSSE

REGIONAL TROPHY: Chénier 25, Buthem 10, Jéze 0.

DEPT TROPHY: Lamoignon 19, Yankaire 12.

Record New Zealand enter the fourth day

Worcestershire have signed Ian Michael, a 22 year-old left-arm, medium bowler who was voted outstanding newcomer" in field Shield cricket this winter. He is taking 41 wickets and helping Australia win the Macdonald Cup. He will spend until July 18 at Essex, on an Esso scholarship.

erty strokes), Mitchell, from a
rt corner, and Hill.

by Football Union decides to

Reeves, the second seed, beat younger sister, Jennifer, 6-1, 6-3.

Stefan Edberg, who defeated Bjorn Swede and world number one Mats Wilander last Sunday in final of the Milan Grand Prix tournament, signed a five-year contract with West German sports equipment company Adidas yesterday for an undisclosed amount.

FOR THE RECORD

powder snow overnight
on 50 400 Good
powder on North-facing slopes
175 350 Good
few snow, vastly improved skiing
above reports, supplied by repres
L refers to lower slopes and U to u

New Zealand enter the fourth d

REAROS: First Innings: 302 (A S Gilles 19, J. Haynes 70; J N Maguire 3 for 83, G R Matthews 3 for 83, C G Rackemann 3 for 121)

Second Innings

Haynes c Phillips b Maguire..... 1
Gilles not out..... 1
Rest not out.....
Extras (n-b & lb 1).....
Total (1 wk).....
LL OF WICKET: 1-18.

GOLF

From Mitchell Platts
Partner, Madras, Florida

The players will notice numerous changes on the course, which was the subject of immense criticism before three greens were completely rebuilt and six others remodelled. Craig Stadler, America's number one money winner in 1982, says, "Originally the greens were unputtable. Now they're a heck of a lot better."

Speaking as one who has conquered the course, Sutton says: "Some people claim it is unfair. But I like it because it's a ball-hitter's course. And that is my strength. But the key to winning here is to remain patient. You cannot hope to succeed by being aggressive."

ried Good Fine +10
 nder Good Fine +15
 natives of the Ski Club of Great
 or slopes.

La crème de la crème

SECRETARY REQUIRED

For small Tender Company located in modern quarters West End. Applicants must have good skills, excellent ST typing, shorthand and typing knowledge of simple bookkeeping/PAYE/VAT is preferred but not essential. Salary A.A.E.

Please Apply in writing giving full C.V. to Mr N. B. Madson, Carlton Tenders Services Ltd, Colindale House, 1 Dover Street, London, W1.

PERSONNEL OFFICER

CITY £14,000

Aged 30-40, with ideally 3-5 years exp. within an insurance environment. All aspects of Recruitment, Employment Law & Personnel etc. Varied and very rewarding career offered.

Mr. Hayes, Acme Agency, 158 Bloomsbury, EC2, 01-477 9701

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EXPERTISE £8,200

This position as secretary to a senior partner offers a high level of involvement to someone with good conveying experience and 100/60 skills. The office is in the West End.

SAIL AWAY

£8,500

An excellent opportunity to work at the very top with a partner specialising in Marine litigation. Good commercial experience and 100/60 skills required.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

£7,000

A headlining position working with a young and lively firm of solicitors who are involved in the entertainment business. 100/50 skills and one year's general legal experience are needed.

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Legal Secretary

01-499 8070

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With a difference

It's not just that it's a brand new job in a brand new office, but also that it's a great chance to work for a well known company and part of a very successful team.

£10,000 Project Finance

The Director of this international bank needs a committed PA to assist him in the organisation and expansion of his project finance business.

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Bi-lingual French PA/Secretary in Bond St.

£8,500

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Requires secretary interested in film research and with a good knowledge of film history and production.

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£6,500 + Bonus

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MacBlain

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Mature unflappable secretary with smart appearance to work for the Managing Director and Sales Director of an International Travel Company based in Bromley.

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20 years of friendly service

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ARABIC AND ELEGANT £9,000
You will need to speak, read and write fluently in Arabic as secretary to a new Director in a young investment co. Social graces and 100/60 skills essential. Banking or similar background preferred. SW1.

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A new position for a good shorthand secretary with initiative to develop your own PA niche. Instant mort. sub. or rent allowance. Age 27-37 EC2.

MARINE ENGINEERING £8,500
Minimal secretarial content with much administration: duties include book-keeping, banking, organising functions etc. Working alone at times. EC2.

PR £8,000 neg
Well educated erudite secretary with good organising ability for public relations involvement and editorial duties in W1. Skills 80/60.

377 8600 CITY
439 7001 WEST END

Secretaries Plus
The Secretarial Consultants

"I wish I had more scope!"

Tick your requirements

- | | |
|---|--|
| Responsibility <input type="checkbox"/> | Pleasant atmosphere <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Job interest <input type="checkbox"/> | Friendly people to work with <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Meeting people <input type="checkbox"/> | Real career prospects <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Good salary <input type="checkbox"/> | Lots of training <input type="checkbox"/> |
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If you've ticked most of these then we have the job you're looking for. As the fastest-growing temporary help company in London we're looking for people to help us with that expansion.

The permanent positions we have are for Sales Representatives and Supervisors/Interviewers, based throughout London.

You'll need to convince us that you have enthusiasm, an outgoing personality, a stable career history and a real desire for more than just a job. You're also likely to be over 21 years of age.

We have only a limited number of vacancies, so in the first instance we'd like you to call Barbara Narkiewicz on 01-379 7439 right now!

Kelly Girl

London's fastest-growing temporary help company

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Central London

c. £7,250 (review after 6 months)

Nuffield Hospitals is the country's largest independent hospital group, with 31 hospitals throughout the UK and a staff of 3,300. A big undertaking by any standards, but with so many locations to run, it can be quite a headache for our Personnel Department.

We operate as a small, close knit team with everybody pulling together and getting involved in all aspects of the Department's work. You will be providing a full secretarial service for the Personnel Manager and the Assistant Personnel Manager who have a mass of correspondence which you'd expect dealing with people and their problems.

It's an interesting and busy job - ideal for an experienced secretary aged 25+. Fast, diplomacy, the ability to communicate easily and effectively with people at all levels plus good accurate shorthand and typing are the qualifications you'll need.

A salary of around £7,250 will be negotiated and this will be reviewed after six months. Benefits include BUPA, LVA plus a subsidised restaurant, mortgage subsidy scheme, flexible working hours, a season ticket loan scheme, and pleasant modern working conditions conveniently located near the Aldwych.

For an application form contact Personnel Department, Nuffield Hospitals, Aldwych House, 71-91 Aldwych, London, WC2B 4EE. Tel: 01-404 0601.

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Selfridges' Training Department

c. £7,500

This demanding role offers much more than routine secretarial duties. Working in the heart of London's West End, you'll be fully responsible for running a busy office, working with a team of trainers who will rely on you for secretarial and administrative support. And that's just part of the picture.

You'll need accurate typing (c.50 wpm), good 'O' or 'A' levels, and, ideally, experience of micro-processor-based W/P. Cheerfulness, and the ability to keep cool under pressure, are also important.

Salary is supported by valuable benefits, including generous shopping discounts. If you're a challenge, and are aged 21-40, then please telephone 01-629 1234 ext 2304 for an application form, or write with full details to: Personnel Dept., Selfridges Limited, 400 Oxford Street, London W1.

Selfridges

SECRETARY

to the

VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT

Holiday Inn (UK) Inc. requires a Secretary at their executive offices in Brentford, with the following qualifications:

- Good all-round secretarial skills - shorthand essential
- Age 25-30 years
- Well presented and articulate
- Experience in an international office
- German an advantage
- Sense of humour

This position offers interesting and varied work, a competitive salary and the kind of benefits you would expect from the World's largest hotel group.

Please write with full career details to date to:

Mrs. Carol Cheeseman, Personnel Department, Holiday Inn (UK) Inc., 80-82 Windsor Road, Brentford, Middx. TW8 0QH.

Holiday Inn
Aston Plaza

Secretarial Opportunities

Goldman Sachs International Corp., a leading US Investment Bank, currently has Secretarial vacancies in the following divisions:

- Securities Sales
- Corporate Finance
- Merchant Banking

The above positions require a minimum 3 years experience, good skills (100/60), and the ability to work under pressure.

Good Salary + benefits. Please apply in writing with full CV to:

Elizabeth Clarke, GOLDMAN SACHS INTERNATIONAL CORP., 162 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4DB.

NO AGENCIES PLEASE

MAYFAIR

OIL/PETROCHEMICAL TRADING COMPANY

SECRETARY/ASSISTANT

Required for 2 Executives in spacious branch office of major German group. Essential requirements: good secretarial skills; tele. experience; numeracy sufficient for basic book-keeping; confident telephone manner. Working knowledge of German preferred. Previous experience in oil related business would be useful.

Salary circa £8,500 Telephone 01-229 7331 (No Agencies)

There's no accounting for taste!

Accord, the dynamic greeting card company, need help to make it figure.

Are your ideas on how to run a small DP Department fully appreciated? Do you feel you could do more with your skills?

Why not ring Janine Mills on 01-354 0101 and see if you could fit into our fast moving and idea-orientated office.

ACCORD PUBLICATIONS LIMITED, Baldwin Terrace, London, N17 8U.

Office Administrator

Leisure Company

Growing Leisure Co. in Leisure/Travel trade a high standard of administrative support. You will supervise two junior and be responsible for the office. Your typing must be excellent and your approach pleasant. Salary £7,000.

Please send CV to Leisure and Recreation Consultants, 127 Albert Bridge Rd, London SW11 4PL.

First class references together with C.V. to Box 2498H The Times

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Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

- 6.00 **Celestial AM**.
6.30 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. News from Fern Britton at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 and sport at 8.55 and 9.15; exercises at 6.50 and 8.15; the day's anniversaries at 7.05 and 8.05; a guest in the Spotlight at 7.20; cartoons at 7.25; Pat Phoenix at 7.40, 8.45, and 9.12; 7.56 pop video; Ray Davies's music moments at 8.10; Eve Pollard's gossip column at 8.35.
9.00 **Bellamy on Botany**. In part six of David Bellamy's ten-part series he examines Decay and Delicacy (9.25). **Celestial** 10.30 **Play School**, presented by Chloë Ashcroft (9.55). **Gharbar**. Magazine programme of interest to Asian women. Today, Parveen Mirza talks to representatives of the London-based voluntary organisation, Sangam 11.20 **Celestial**.
12.30 **News After Noon** with Richard Whitmore and Frances Goodale. The weather prospects come from Bill Giles 12.57 **Regional News** (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles 1.00 **Pobble Milla at Ose**. The guests include cooks Michael Smith and Pius Leith 1.45 **BoD** (9).
2.00 **Film: Secret Beyond the Door** (1948) starring Joan Bennett and Michael Redgrave. Colin discovers too late that she had married in haste and that her husband has a side to his side to his nature that she never knew existed. Directed by Fritz Lang.
3.35 **Cartoon** Tom and Jerry 3.48 **Regional News** (not London) 3.50 **Magic Roundabout** (9) 3.55 **Play School**, presented by Sheelagh Gilbey (4.20) **The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse** (4.25) **Jackson** 4.40 **Restaghost** (9) 5.05 **Newsround** with Paul McColl 5.10 **Moanfest**. The final episode of the seafaring adventure.
5.40 **Stary Minutes** includes news from Moira Stuart at 5.40.
6.40 **Harty**. The final programme of the series and Russell's quest to find the Coda Demon Drummers and Dancers of Sado and, making their first appearance as the group Osele, Peter Skellern, Mary Hopkin and Julian Lloyd Webber.
7.10 **Medicine Express**. Back trouble is the main item this week. The painful condition is estimated to cost industry eleven and a half million working days a year and the NHS some 280 million. There is also news of a successful treatment for acne.
7.40 **The Day of the Triffids**. Part four of the science fiction serial based on the book by John Wyndham (9).
8.10 **Fame**. Miss Sherwood's new teaching methods strains the honesty of some of the pupils at New York's High School for the Performing Arts.
9.00 **News with Sue Lawley**.
9.25 **Q.E.D.: Testing Testing**. The first of a new series presented by Anthony Clare examines how ordinary things are tested in an extraordinary way (see Choice).
9.55 **Sportlight** introduced by Harry Carpenter includes coverage of the Courage Soccer Six tournament and three greyhound races from Wimbledon. Saturday's Grand National is also previewed.
11.15 **News**.
11.20 **Remington Steele**. A crooked casino manager receives his come-uppance.
12.10 **Weather**.

tv-am

- 6.25 **Good Morning Britain** with John Stapleton and Nick Owen. News from Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; sport at 8.55 and 9.15; exercises at 6.50 and 8.15; the day's anniversaries at 7.05 and 8.05; a guest in the Spotlight at 7.20; cartoons at 7.25; Pat Phoenix at 7.40, 8.45, and 9.12; 7.56 pop video; Ray Davies's music moments at 8.10; Eve Pollard's gossip column at 8.35.
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ITV/LONDON

- 9.25 **Thames news headlines**. 9.30 **For Schools: War reporting**. 9.47 **Teaching children safety**. 10.04 **The customs and events** associated with Easter 10.21 **The importance of writing** skills. 10.48 **Modern history**: Summer 1968 11.10 **The people and elements of a story** 11.25 **Basic maths** 11.35 **How we used to live**. The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.
12.00 **Flicks**. Christopher Lillicrap with the story of Peter's Chair 12.10 **Soundbite Like a Story**. Mark Wynter with the tale of The Fisherman and the Gull 12.30 **Three Little Words**. Quiz game for married couples.
1.00 **News with Leonard Parkin** 1.20 **Thames news from Robin Houston** 1.30 **A Plus**. Kay Avila talks to Ann Oakley about miscarriages. 2.00 **Crowe Court**. Continuing the case of The Fisherman and the Gull 2.10 **Three Little Words**. Quiz game for married couples.
2.30 **A Country Practice**. Drama serial about a medical practice in the Australian outback 3.30 **Sons and Daughters**. Steve Gidley with the tale of The Fisherman and the Gull 4.00 **Flicks**. A repeat of the programme about at noon 4.15 **Basic maths** 4.20 **Soundbite Like a Story**. Mark Wynter with the tale of The Fisherman and the Gull 4.30 **Three Little Words**. Quiz game for married couples.
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Toy gun tester at work: Q.E.D. (BBC1, 9.25pm)

BBC 2

- 6.55 **Open University: Chemistry** Crystals. 7.20 **Looking at Poetry**. 7.45 **Conceptual Models in Stratigraphy**. Ends at 8.10. 8.00 **Celestial**.
9.30 **Daytime on Two: Animals of the sea**. 10.00 **Clap hands**. 10.15 **Maths course**. 10.30 **Home economics**: the information on food labels. 11.00 **Trog and the dog**. 11.17 **Children's film music**. 11.30 **Writing music for film and television** themes. 12.05 **The final lesson of the Italian conversation course**.
12.30 **The last in a series that examines the work of members of parliament**. 12.55 **Micros in schools**. 1.21 **Italy and the Italian language**. 1.38 **Part four of The Daughter of King Kong**. 2.01 **Houses of different countries**. 2.18 **Narrative writing for beginners**. 2.40 **Zig Zag**.
3.00 **Celestial**.
5.10 **Mentally Handicapped: A Dependent Future**. An Open University production that examines the lives of Alan and Mary, two mentally handicapped people. 5.35 **News summary with subtitles**.
5.40 **Film: Qualifications of Case Grande** (1964) starring Alan and Steve Rowland. 'Cowboy' about a notorious gunman, Joe Daylight, and his attempts to make a number of large herds of cattle, sided and abetted by a gang of outlaws. The first ranch they decide to attack is the Case Grande. Directed by Roy Rowland.
7.10 **SeaWorld and Amazon**. **Howell's** are still on the track of Tom.
7.35 **Open Space: Only Fools and Sportsmen**. A documentary that examines drug abuse in sport - something that has reached epidemic proportions. 8.05 **Sailor**. The final programme of the series examines what some of the crew of the scrapped aircraft carrier Ark Royal are doing now, eight years after they were filmed on active service.
8.35 **Jeffrey Smith's World of Flowers**. This week Mr Smith examines the history and origins of mountain flowers (9).
9.00 **Put Black 84**. The first semi-final - John Spencer versus Jimmy White.
9.40 **Strangers and Brothers**. Episode 12. Roger Quail's career is rocked by a scandal (see Choice).
10.30 **Newsnight**.
11.15 **The Twilight Zone: Nightmares**. A collection of stories that meets a girl who is strangely familiar.
11.40 **We Bring You Live Pictures**. Part three of the history of the BBC's outside broadcasting unit (9).
12.10 **Open University: Computing**. Linear Equations. 12.35 **News**. **Eukleiden Geometry**. Ends at 1.00.
12.05 **Closedown**.

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **People's Court**. Retired Judge Warner presides in judgment in the case of How to Get a Headache.
6.30 **Entertainment**. The third programme in the series devoted to people who spend their energies on a special subject focuses on Ken Jones, seal doctor. Tonyandy-born Mr Jones has lived with his wife in St Agnes, Cornwall, since 1958. They bought a beach cafe and it was there that they met their first seal - a two-day old pup who refused to return to the sea. From this small start grew a seal sanctuary which became so large it had to be moved to Gweek on the Helford River.
6.00 **The Munsters**. Herman is persuaded by an advertisement to buy ten remote control cars as a family holiday present. Two dubious estate agents try to buy it from him when Herman discovers that the land is really a telepathic ghost town. Flashback. The eighth programme in the series examines television's and cinema's approach to the concept of the family, deals with the optimistic 50s. The Ordinary devoted Mother was the site of a series of radio broadcasts by psycho-analyst Dr D. W. Winnicott in which he sang the praises of housework and child-rearing. The 50s also brought commercial television. In the soap adverts but Dan Fannon brought reality to the screen with his series. People in Trouble.
7.00 **Channel Four News**.
7.30 **Connect**. The political side of this week is taken by Jeremy Hanley. Conservative MP for Richmond and Barnes.
8.00 **Brookside**. Barry and Terry are still sweating over Tommy McLeod's missing car while at the Cross's attempts are made to reconcile Harry and his son, Kevin.
8.30 **Diverse Reports**. Weekly current affairs programme with this week, **Farmington Mount**, literary editor of The Spectator, talking about a plan to privatise Britain's bus services.
9.00 **Film: The Enigma of Knipper** (1974) starring Bruno S. A strange story based on a real life incident when, in 1928, a young man was found standing motionless in Nuremberg's main square with a prayer book in one hand and a letter to the local regimental riding master in the other. Directed by Werner Herzog.
11.00 **Voices**. Robert Hutchinson chairs a discussion between Robert Trivers of the University of California, Richard Lewontin of Harvard and Marvin Harris of the University of Florida, on the theme: **Sociobiology: Culture on a Leaf?**
12.05 **Closedown**.

CHOICE

For reasons it would take a psychologist to explain, the commentary for TESTING, TESTING (BBC1, 9.25pm), the film that brings the curtain on another series of Q.E.D., the science for Everyman series, is delivered by the BBC's resident psychiatrist, Anthony Clare. It is not as if he had written it himself. Could he be, perhaps, that being Irish, it was just his words into Dr Clare's mouth, also manages to find something funny to say about bottled fizzy drinks. Tonic and beer bottles shatter at 300 pounds per square inch; yet, the strongest glass is used for that internationally renowned drink that, according to the posters, life goes better with - and the fizzy does not rise above 60 psi. Potentially the film's most amusing episode is the one that shows exploding custard powder. But the grin fades on our lips when we are told that precisely

such a blast seriously injured eight factory workers, back in 1981.
● **STRANGERS AND BROTHERS** (BBC2, 9.40pm) continues to make heavy demands on our powers of concentration. There is not a throwaway line from start to finish, and if the telephone should ring as you watch the latest episode, you are in danger of, at best, losing your compass and, at worst, your rudder. Last week's entry into the action of Anthony Hopkins's Roger Claville has had a tonic effect on the serial. The scandal of his extra-marital relationship deepens in tonight's penultimate episode. As Lewis Elliot, Shaughan Seymour is proving that he is probably the most intelligent listener on British television today.
Peter Davalle

Radio 4

- 6.00 **News Briefing**. Weather. 6.10 **Farming Today**. 6.25 **Shipping**. 6.30 **Today**, including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 News. 8.45 **Prayer**. 8.55, 9.55 **Weather**. 9.00 **News**. 9.25, 9.55 **Today**. 9.55 **News**. 10.00 **News**. 10.05 **Libby Purves** and studio guest Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader. 10.10 **News**. 10.15 **Gardener's Question Time**. 10.20 **Moving Story: "The Doctor's Prescription"** by Guy De Maupassant. Read by David Marchant. 10.45 **News**. 11.00 **News**. 11.05 **Travel**. 11.10 **News**. 11.15 **Book at Bedtime: "The Conquerors"** by Robin Jenkins (8). Read by Tom Fleming. 11.20 **The World Tonight**. 11.25 **The Financial World Tonight**. 11.30 **News**. 11.35 **Weather**. 11.40 **News**. 11.45 **Shipping**. 11.50 **News**. 11.55 **Today**. 12.00 **News**. 12.05 **Shipping**. 12.10 **News**. 12.15 **Weather**. 12.20 **News**. 12.25 **Shipping**. 12.30 **News**. 12.35 **Weather**. 12.40 **News**. 12.45 **Shipping**. 12.50 **News**. 12.55 **Weather**. 1.00 **News**. 1.05 **Shipping**. 1.10 **News**. 1.15 **Weather**. 1.20 **News**. 1.25 **Shipping**. 1.30 **News**. 1.35 **Weather**. 1.40 **News**. 1.45 **Shipping**. 1.50 **News**. 1.55 **Weather**. 2.00 **News**. 2.05 **Shipping**. 2.10 **News**. 2.15 **Weather**. 2.20 **News**. 2.25 **Shipping**. 2.30 **News**. 2.35 **Weather**. 2.40 **News**. 2.45 **Shipping**. 2.50 **News**. 2.55 **Weather**. 3.00 **News**. 3.05 **Shipping**. 3.10 **News**. 3.15 **Weather**. 3.20 **News**. 3.25 **Shipping**. 3.30 **News**. 3.35 **Weather**. 3.40 **News**. 3.45 **Shipping**. 3.50 **News**. 3.55 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